

INTERNATIONAL

Bloodiest year in history of the island nation

12 die in Sri Lanka violence

COLOMBO, Jan. 1. (Reuters): Four people died in a bomb blast and eight were gunned down by Tamil guerrillas as Sri Lanka marked the end of what an opposition leader called the bloodiest year in the island's modern history.

Police said 60 people were injured in the New Year's Eve bombing at Kandy, a Buddhist holy city 110 km north of Colombo.

The blast occurred as thousands of people were watching the closing stages of a procession of elephants, dancers and drummers in honour of a tooth relic of the Buddha housed in a Kandy temple.

In a separate incident, police said eight Sinhalese farmers were killed and nine people were injured when Tamil rebels raided Mahadivulwewa village in the eastern district of Trincomalee this morning.

Military sources said in other violence rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam group attacked two police stations with rocket-propelled grenades and

small arms today.

They said the raids in Amparai and Mahawatte, both in eastern Sri Lanka, were repulsed and no casualties were reported.

Police were unable to say who was responsible for the Kandy bombing, which came only hours after Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa and several government ministers attended prayers in the nearby Temple of the Tooth.

They speculated the bombing might have been the work of an outlawed Marxist group, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front) or Tamil guerrillas.

The front, which opposes an India-Sri Lanka accord aimed at ending a four-year-old Tamil separatist rebellion, has been blamed for the murder of ruling party chairman Harsha Abeywardene on Dec 23, and for an assassination attempt against President Junius Jayewardene in August.

In a New Year message, parliamentary opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike said: "The

year 1987 has been the worst in modern Sri Lankan history" and blamed the government for what he called "mismanagement and blunders."

Tamil rebels fighting to set up an independent state have been held responsible for scores of deaths in their northern and eastern strongholds as well as in the capital, Colombo.

The Tigers have also rejected the peace accord signed by Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in July.

Premadasa, like President Jayewardene and most other top government leaders, is Sinhalese.

The Prime Minister, who has previously criticised the peace accord, said in his speech at the Temple of the Tooth that both political and military means have failed to end the Tamil rebellion.

"We have to go to the roots of both the Tamil problem and the growing unrest among Sinhalese youth," he said. "There are more than 800,000 young people who live in frustration — educated people with jobs and without a future."

Premadasa was participating in a ceremony to inaugurate a gold-plated canopy over the temple.

Independence

The Tigers, the most powerful Tamil guerrilla organisation, want to set up an independent Tamil nation in Sri Lanka's Northern province and Eastern province.

Northern province is overwhelmingly Tamil. The villages that were raided today are about 65 kilometres west of Trincomalee in Eastern province, where the population is equally divided among Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims.

India has sent an estimated 25,000 soldiers to northern and eastern Sri Lanka to try to disarm the Tigers and enforce the peace plan, which would grant Tamils a greater measure of autonomy.

India was drawn into the internal affairs of its island neighbour because it is the region's major power and because it has a politically powerful Tamil minority of 60 million.

Queen announces New Year honours

LONDON, Jan. 1. (AP): The test-tube baby pioneers, the Beatles' record producer and the heroes of one of Britain's worst sea disasters were among those named yesterday in Queen Elizabeth II's New Year honours list.

Other recipients ranged from the chief rabbi of Britain and actress Diana Rigg to the men who arranged Prince Charles' wedding and the officer who taught his brother Prince Andrew to fly helicopters.

But the twice-yearly ritual whereby Britain honours achievement and good deeds was marred by fuss over premature publication.

The Sun newspaper jumped the gun Wednesday by banner-headlining two of the 31 people decorated for their courage aboard the Herald of Free Enterprise, the British ferry that capsized off Belgium on March 6 with the loss of at least 195 lives.

The Sun's action was denounced by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's spokesman, Bernard Ingham, as an "absolutely disgraceful" violation of the arrangement whereby the media gets the honour list in advance and is supposed to keep it secret until the first minute of Dec 31.

The awards, which carry no cash prize, come from the monarch, most of them at the Prime Minister's recommendation. Critics claim they are abused for political ends, and that the titles they confer are anachronistic because they invoke an empire long gone.

Honorary awards went to 13 Belgian nurses, doctors and harbour workers involved in saving survivors, and the Governor of West Flanders, Oliver Vanneste, got an honorary knighthood in the Order of the British Empire for his tireless work in supervising the rescue operation.

The Queen also honoured George Martin, the virtuoso arranger and producer sometimes known as "The Fifth Beatle," and Lieut. Cmdr.

Israeli premier must offer new ideas

Mubarak ready to meet Shamir

TEL AVIV, Jan. 1. (Reuters): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is ready to meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir if the Israeli leader has something new to say about Middle East peace efforts, Shamir's spokesman said yesterday.

An Arab member of Israel's parliament, Abdel Wahab Darwashe, delivered Mubarak's message yesterday after meeting the Egyptian leader last week in Cairo, spokesman Yossi Ahmeir said.

Mubarak has met Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Israel's Labour Party leader, but not Shamir, head of the rightist Likud bloc. Of the three men, only Shamir opposes convening an international conference on Middle East peace.

Woman smoker sparks row on airliner

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 1. (Reuters): Passengers booed, shoved stewardesses and entered into shouting matches on a TWA airliner in a dispute over whether a woman passenger should smoke, witnesses said.

Trouble broke out after a stewardess took a cigarette out of the fingers of the woman passenger who refused to stop smoking aboard the flight on Wednesday, the witnesses said.

About 15 passengers on the packed flight from Boston to Los Angeles then began demonstrating, some apparently supporting the stewardess and others the woman passenger.

Passengers marched off the plane in Los Angeles shouting "Don't fly TWA," only to find airport police waiting to question them. Several were detained for a short while and a stewardess said she would file a battery suit against one of the passengers.

"TWA has a long-standing policy that it must honour non-smokers," an airline spokesman said.

PLO sees positive signs from US

PARIS, Jan. 1. (AP): Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat says there have been important positive signs coming from Washington in recent days, including the American decision not to veto an anti-Israel resolution in the United Nations.

"For the first time, the American administration did not oppose a capital vote for the Palestinian people," Arafat said in an interview published Thursday in the French weekly *Nouvel Observateur*, referring to a Security Council resolution deploring Israeli practices in the occupied territories.

He noted that the text of the resolution, concerning Israel's handling of rioting in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in which at least 22 Palestinians have been killed, cited all of the resolutions on the Palestinian problem and mentioned Israel as an "occupying power."

"That the Reagan administration allowed the vote of such a text is, for us, a very positive sign."

Other positive developments, Arafat told the magazine, concerned the PLO office at the

United Nations and what he said

was American acceptance of the principle of an international conference on peace in the Middle East involving all parties.

He said that according to the account he received of the summit between Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev from a special Soviet envoy, "the Americans accepted for the first time the principle of this conference. The United States and the Soviet Union even decided to continue to study this project at the expert level."

"Be careful, for the moment, the Americans have accepted only the principle. They have not changed their opinion on certain very important details. There is still a lot to discuss. But they are no longer hostile, in principle, to this project."

Another positive sign, he said, was that three months after the American decision to close the PLO's Washington office, "the State Department told us Dec 23 that it had decided to place our mission to the United Nations under the protection of the international convention that links the United States and the United Nations."



A Thai policeman escorts a tourist couple through the burnt out First Hotel in Bangkok. (Reuters wirephoto)

13 killed in Bangkok hotel fire

(Continued from Page 1)

and locked, as we were due to leave early this morning. Some were broken into. People had brooches, rings and even perfume stolen," he said.

A group of Indians also said many of their possessions, including gold souvenirs, had been stolen.

An American musician living in Hong Kong, Roger Manners, 31, said he was alerted by the sound of smashing glass and shouts. "I looked out of the window and the area round the swimming pool was a sea of flames," he said.

"There was no alarm. I threw a chair through the window and climbed down outside. I saw some people climbing down with kids on their back."

Fatah Day ...

(Continued from Page 1)

hovers overhead. The PLO is determined to step up anti-Israeli protests by people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Arafat was quoted today as saying in Baghdad.

PLO sources said Arafat, addressing a military parade of PLO forces in Baghdad, hinted that weapons might be used in future battles with Israeli troops in the occupied territories.

"If we have not yet used weapons during the uprising in the occupied land, the Palestinian leadership is closely watching the situation and will adopt adequate steps which will ensure the escalation of the confrontation with the Zionist occupation (forces)," he said.

Sikhs massacre family of nine

AMRITSAR, Jan. 1. (Reuters): Suspected Sikh extremists massacred a family of nine, including three young children, in a north Indian village on New Year's Eve, police said today.

The family of Sikhs were eating their evening meal when eight to 10 gunmen attacked their farmhouse outside the Punjab village of Cheema Bath and wiped them out in a hail of automatic gunfire.

Police said a note claiming the killings in the name of the Khalistan Liberation Force and accusing the family of being police informers was left at the scene 40 km south-east of Amritsar.

11 killed, 713 hurt in Manila revelry

(Continued from Page 1)

MANILA, Jan. 1. (AP): At least 11 people died and 713 others were injured as Manila exploded like a war zone in frenzied revelry to ring in the New Year, police and hospital authorities said today.

Doctors said there was a slight drop in casualties compared to last year when 13 died and 1,400 others were injured.

A check with at least 23 hospitals in the capital showed four people died after they were hit by stray bullets. Six others died from stab wounds inflicted in drunken brawls. One died of injuries in a car collision.

The injured included 658 people who suffered burns and other injuries, including blown-off fingers caused by firecrackers exploding in their hands, 33 wounded in stabbing incidents and 10 hurt in road accidents, hospital authorities said.

At least 12 other people suffered gunshot wounds, eight of them apparently inflicted by stray bullets fired as part of the noise-making, officials said.

Armed forces chief Gen. Fidel Ramos had warned soldiers and licensed gun holders not to fire their weapons into the air to greet the New Year.

Those killed by gunfire included Jose Marso, 9, who was hit by a bullet in the head while watching a fireworks display outside his home, a nurse at the suburban Quezon City medical centre said.

The boy was dead on arrival at the hospital, the nurse said. In the town of Malolos north of Manila, 20 people were treated for burns and wounds from firecrackers, authorities said.

Casualties elsewhere in the country were not immediately available.

Police said they suspected firecrackers as the cause of a fire that razed seven houses in Manila's Tondo district. At least 10 wooden posts were gutted by bonfires lit by revelers on city streets, arson investigator Bienvenido Escoto said.

Relief reaches Khost as siege is broken

(Continued from Page 1)

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 1. (Reuters): A relief convoy of 155 trucks reached the beleaguered Afghan town of Khost for the first time since the siege of the town was lifted, official Kabul Radio said.

The column, carrying 1,200 tonnes of food and consumer goods, rolled into the town on Wednesday afternoon to be greeted by thousands of people throwing flowers and dancing in the streets, the radio said.

It said a second convoy had already left Gardez with 1,600 tonnes of food and essential supplies.

The convoy's arrival came after government forces fighting Mujahideen prised open the main highway from the provincial capital Gardez, the radio said.

Western-backed rebels in Pakistan dismissed the report, monitored in Islamabad.

"This is untrue," said a spokesman for rebel alliance chairman Younis Khalis.

The spokesman said he had contacted colleagues in Miran-shah, just across the Pakistani border from Khost, and said that

as of Wednesday the Soviet and Afghan government relief force was still some 35 km short of the beleaguered town.

No independent confirmation was immediately available.

Pledge

Afghan President Najibullah pledged to ease the plight of Khost — which rebels say has a garrison of 8,000 Afghan troops — at a well-publicised constitutional conference in Kabul on Nov 30.

He said 40,000 people faced deprivation and starvation and pledged that his government would use force to break the siege if the rebels did not allow food supplies through.

Exactly a month later, during what rebels say was one of the fiercest battles of the nine-year-old guerrilla war, Kabul Radio announced the effective end of the siege.

The main road to Khost has been held by guerrillas since 1980 but until the rebel siege began three months ago the town was supplied by local farmers or by air from Kabul.

Silkworms heading for Iran

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1. (UPI): Shipments of Chinese-made Silkworm missiles heading for Iran may have originated in North Korea, indicating China may not have broken a promise against shipping the missiles to the Khomeni government, an administration official said yesterday.

Administration sources said on Wednesday US intelligence shows one of the two Iranian ships that recently left North Korea is carrying a small number of the deadly Silkworms. A third merchant ship that recently left Shanghai, China, laden with arms may also be bound for Iran, the source added.

But "the jury is still out" as to whether China broke its promise on the Silkworm, said the official, who closely follows Chinese arms shipments to Iran.

The missile shipment originated from North Korea, which the official said has its own stock of Silkworms and has consistently demonstrated its independence from China.

Therefore, the shipment on its way to Iran is "insufficient evidence" China broke its promise made after Michael Armacost, Undersecretary of State for political affairs, visited Beijing early last month, the official said.

A mole in Junejo's office

NEW DELHI, Jan. 1. (AP): A senior Indian journalist said yesterday that a spy in Pakistan Prime Minister Mohamud Khan Junejo's office had passed military secrets to India just before a short border skirmish in September.

M.J. Akbar, editor of the Calcutta-based daily, *The Telegraph*, said in an article that the spy was in "the highest level in Mr Junejo's set-up."

Akbar said the charge was made by Pakistan Vice-chief of Army Staff, Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg, in secret testimony to the joint defence committee of the Pakistan National Assembly.

Beg had earlier complained to President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, Akbar said. But the President, who is also Army chief, "opted to continue for status quo," he said.

No sources were mentioned in the article.

Indian government officials said they had no immediate comments on the story.

Arless dies

LONDON, Jan. 1. (AP): Film director Leslie Arless, whose costume dramas of romance and adventure such as "The Wicked Lady" helped relieve the grim austerity of British life during and after World War II, has died, his family said today.

APARTMENT FOR RENT IN BNEID-AL-GHAR

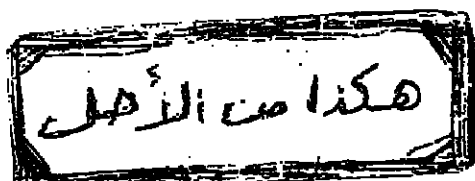
One master bedroom, two bedrooms, one maid's room. All with attached bathrooms, laundry, kitchen, salon-dining room. At Majidi Building, while people gliding behind the Kuwait Continental Hotel.

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Seminar on cleanliness

KUWAIT'S Environmental Protection Society held a seminar last week on public cleanliness and the local environment, with Fatima Al Shatti from the Environmental Protection Council, Waseel Mansour from the Municipality Health Affairs Department and Dr. Badriya Al Awadi from the council participating.

At the opening of the seminar, Al Shatti reviewed the role of the Environmental Protection Council in fighting pollution and explained the laws issued for this purpose. She added that the pur-

pose of the council was to represent proposals for general environmental policy using scientific measures to protect it. She said that the council also coordinates between Kuwait and international organisations for environmental protection.

Concerned
Dr. Mansour, speaking at the seminar, said that the Municipality is very much concerned about the cleanliness of Kuwait and the 1987 Cleanliness Law was passed for this reason. He added that the municipality uses the latest garbage collection

equipment and buries garbage after it has been compressed instead of burning it. He said that 12 companies collect garbage and clean roads throughout the country at a cost of KD 338,000 in monthly wages.

Dr. Mansour added that the average amount of trash and garbage discarded daily by each individual was about one kilogramme and that about 1,695 tons of garbage and trash was collected daily from residential areas in addition to commercial, industrial and construction wastes.

Plan to replace old model car telephones

AN official source at Kuwait's Ministry of Communications said that the ministry had no intention of cancelling old model car telephones, but did plan to replace these phones with new lines because no spare parts were available for these sets. The source said that the subscriber would have to pay half the cost of replacing the lines and ministry would pay the rest.

The ministry source added that the ministry planned to increase the number of subscribers to 1,154 with 800 lines held for special needs. The source said that the mobile telephone service represented a good income for the ministry, with KD 30,000 collected in transfer charges and the annual subscription fees of KD 160 per line.

Dubai gives Iranian deportees temporary haven

DUBAI, Jan. 1. (Reuters): The Arab emirate of Dubai has given eight desperate Iranian deportees a temporary haven, allowing them all into the Gulf emirate on transit visas.

Security officials said the group of four men, three women and a four-year-old boy had received visas and entered the emirate late on Wednesday. "They were all released into Dubai yesterday," one security official said. "Some had one-week transit visas and others two-week."

The Iranians, who threatened to commit suicide if forced to return to their homeland, were deported from Yugoslavia on Tuesday.

They were bundled kicking and screaming onto a flight from Belgrade to Dubai, which lies barely 100 miles across the Gulf from Iran.

Dubai authorities said they did not know where the group was staying in Dubai or what the next destination might be.

Awadi calls for end to inhuman Israeli practices

KUWAIT'S Minister of Public Health and chairman of the executive council of Arab Health Ministers, Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Awadi has urged the international community and organisations to intervene to stop the brutal Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories.

Dr. Awadi called on these committees and organisations to defend human rights and international agreements guaranteeing the human rights for the peoples of the world.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has responded to Dr. Awadi's plea, and indicated it is seeking to provide for the needs of the inhabitants of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and to extend health care for the big number of injured civilians in the three-week upris-

ing. The committee has contacted its representatives in Tel Aviv and instructed them to continue extending medical assistance to the victims of the Israeli savage practices and has coordinated with the Israeli authorities to hospitalise the wounded and arranged to visit them in hospital in the company of their families.

The ICRC representatives are currently collecting information and statistics about the injured and the health condition in the occupied territories in general, the committee said.

Dr. Awadi's calls have been directed to the UN Secretary-General, the World Health Organisation, the UNICEF and Amnesty International, the London-based Human Rights Organisation.

Tenders for gardens

ABDUL MOHSEN AL QALAF, the Director of the Parks and Afforestation Department of Kuwait's Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources, said that the authority had offered three tenders for the construction of fourteen gardens in various areas of Kuwait.

Al Qalaf explained that there were a number of problems involved in landscaping of a desert country such as Kuwait. He said that lack of water was the major problem, as one would expect, and that damage to existing trees and shrubs caused by traffic accidents or vandalism

also posed a significant problem. He said that the authority was trying a new technique for planting trees and shrubs which involved planting them one metre deep, which allows the root system a greater area to expand, and to provide a special moisture preservative which reduces the plants water consumption.

The director said that the authority planned to distribute several types of trees to owners of spring camps, which could be planted and used as wind breaks as well preventing soil erosion.

Carlucci to visit Gulf states

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1. (AP): Defence Secretary Frank C. Carlucci will travel to the Gulf this weekend for meetings with officials in four Gulf nations, the Pentagon announced.

It will be Carlucci's first trip to the area since he succeeded Caspar Weinberger as Defence Secretary in November. The trip was announced yesterday.

Carlucci will leave Sunday for the eight-day trip, which will

include stops in Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Saudi Arabia. Pentagon spokesman Maj. William O'Connell said. He plans to make a brief stop in Paris for meetings with senior government officials there before returning to Washington on Jan. 11, O'Connell said.

About 30 US Navy vessels currently are stationed in the Gulf area to provide protection to oil tankers flying the US flag.

Seminar on pollution



Lecturers at a seminar on the environment and pollution discuss some of the causes of pollution in the environment and ways to prevent it.



The audience, interested in environmental protection, listen to lecturers at the seminar.

YOUTH Centres of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour held a seminar on environmental pollution at the Sliamiya Youth Centre.

The seminar, held in cooperation with Kuwait's Environmental Protection Society, featured Dr. Dhari Al Ajmi from the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and Dr. Ali Al Damkhi from the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

Dr. Al Ajmi explained that pollution resulted when natural resources were used in an unnatural way, often by irresponsible behaviour of man.

Dr. Damkhi spoke about methods which protect the environment from pollution such as environmental planning, controlling the use of pollutants and cultural programmes to enlighten the public about pollution.

Belgium will not participate in Gulf naval force

ABU DHABI, Jan. 1. (AP): Belgian Defence Minister, Francois-Xavier de Donnea said yesterday his country would not be able to take part in a proposed international naval force in the Gulf.

"We have only a few anti-submarine frigates which are not equipped for the area," he told a news conference in the United Arab Emirates on a visit to inspect Belgian forces in the region.

He said Belgium had sent two minesweepers and one supply vessel to the Gulf to sweep mines and guarantee freedom of navigation along shipping lanes menaced by attacks related to the 7-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

Soviet officials have suggested a UN-sponsored naval armada to replace individual forces sent to the area by itself, the United States, France, Britain, Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium.

They have linked that suggestion to American calls for an arms embargo against Iran over its failure to endorse a July 20 ceasefire call by the UN Security

Council. Diplomats in the Gulf say the Soviet Union has not made clear whether an international fleet would enforce an arms embargo or protect shipping against escalating attacks by Iran and Iraq.

The United States this week indicated willingness to study the international fleet idea, but only if it did not affect the US Navy's programme of escorting US-flag ships for protection against Iranian attack.

Neutrality
Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said earlier this week that the Gulf Arab neighbours of Iraq and Iran would welcome an international force to protect shipping.

De Donnea was scheduled to inspect the Belgian vessels off the port of Fujairah on Friday.

He stressed his country's neutrality in the Iran-Iraq war. "Our mine-sweeping mission is not hostile to any country since

KD10 fee for per year of residence

FOREIGNERS residing in Kuwait will have to pay a fee of KD 10 for each year of stay, according to an official of the immigration department of the Interior Ministry.

Under an amendment of the Residence Law, to be published in the official gazette, those with temporary stay permits will have to pay KD 1 for every month of stay and a maximum of KD 10 for one complete year, the official indicated.

Employees of government institutions are to pay the residence fee and family passports shall be treated as one irrespective of the number of dependents included in the passport, he explained.

The fees will be paid in duty stamps collectable from local post offices in various parts of Kuwait, the official concluded.

Prince Abdul Rahman for Syria

RIYADH, Jan. 1. (Kuna): Saudi Deputy Defence and Aviation Minister and General Inspector, Prince Abdul Rahman Bin Abdul Aziz will pay an official visit to Syria on Sunday, according to an official announcement here Thursday.

Prince Abdul Rahman's visit comes at the invitation of Syrian Deputy Premier and Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

A high ranking Saudi military delegation will accompany Prince Abdul Rahman during the visit, SPA added, without elaboration.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri cables

HH the Amir yesterday sent three cables of congratulations to chairman of the Sudanese Supreme Council Ahmed Al Mirghani and presidents of Cameroon and Cuba on the occasion of their countries' National Day.

Crown Prince cables

HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to Cuban President and Premier Fidel Castro on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Sheikh Saad sent a cable of congratulations to chairman of the Sudanese Supreme Council Ahmed Al Mirghani on the occasion of his country's National Day. Sheikh Saad also sent a similar message to the Sudanese Premier Sadek El Mahdi.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Develop inter-Arab relations

A DAILY newspaper yesterday called for benefiting from the positive developments that took place in 1987 in order to develop inter-Arab relations on a basis of mutual confidence and respect and the non-interference in internal affairs of others.

Al Bayan newspaper said the climate for holding the much-delayed ordinary Arab summit would be possible if Arabs benefit from those developments and then a solid basis for effective Arab solidarity would be laid.

The newspaper listed those positive developments as the success of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to control its oil output, and thus restoring stability to the international oil market.

The second positive development, according to the paper, was the success to freeze inter-Arab differences and the holding of the Amman extraordinary Arab summit conference which laid new basis for bilateral Arab relations.

The third was the uprising by the Palestinians in the occupied territories against the Israeli occupiers, the paper said.

New premises of Indian Arts Circle opened



INDIAN Ambassador N.N. Jha on Wednesday opened the new premises of the Indian Arts Circle (IAC), a social and sports organisation of the Indian community in Kuwait.

The IAC had closed down in 1985 after a fire gutted its premises in Rumaythiya.

About 1,200 people can be accommodated in the new IAC auditorium, one of many facilities provided in the sprawling, desolate desert setting in Funaitees. Other facilities are for such sports as volleyball, basketball, tennis and badminton.

A music and dance show was held to mark the opening. Picture shows Jha (above) pictured with Mrs Jha and IAC members on the opening night. Young vocalists celebrate with a song at IAC.

Bid to fly microlight plane from London to Australia

Pilot almost hits ground again

MUSCAT, Jan. 1. (Reuters): Englishman Brian Milton came close to disaster yet again on Thursday in his attempt to fly a microlight plane from London to Australia.

The pilot, who made an emergency landing in Jordan, and ditched in the Gulf on Christmas day, touched down in Oman with barely four litres (one gallon) of fuel in his reserve tank.

Milton, awaiting a new tank from Britain to boost his fuel capacity, admitted for the first time his attempt to complete the 19,000-km journey to Darwin in 30 flying days was now impossible.

The 45-year-old hang-gliding instructor was trying to match the time set by the winners of an England-to-Australia air race in 1919.

Fuel
He had taken off from Abu Dhabi at 8.20 a.m. (0420 GMT) on Thursday after repairing his Dalgety Flyer following his forced landing in the Gulf of the emirate's coastline.

He was carrying 95 litres (25 gallons) of fuel for the three-hour 40-minute flight to Muscat.

If the new tank is fitted in time, Milton hopes to leave for Gwadar in Pakistan soon after dawn on Friday.

His flimsy craft, six metres long and less than 10 metres from wingtip to wingtip, was flipped over in high winds on a Greek island.

In Jordan, Milton was forced to make an emergency landing on a road when one of his engines stopped.

A helicopter rescued him from the Gulf and took him to Abu Dhabi after he ran out of fuel.

Strap
Cracks in the plane are filled with glue and shear marks have been gouged into the paintwork.

Milton has suspended a bag under the plastic cockpit cover to catch radios in the event of another hard landing.

He has fitted a strap to the airframe to enable a helicopter to pluck the 150 kg machine from the water.

Until now, Milton did not even know how fast he was flying, but he said that problem was fixed on Wednesday night.

"A captain - I was having dinner with - one of the 10 people in Abu Dhabi who fly micro-flights, said to me: 'I've got an air speed indicator in the car, old boy. Let me give it to you as a present.'"

Record

He admitted his hopes of beating the 1919 record set by Ross and Keith Smith were finished.

"I can't beat it, but I'm ahead of the four guys that got killed two hours after taking off in 1919, ahead of the two who drowned off Corfu, the eight that crashed in Crete, the two Frenchmen who dropped out in Burma and the last two that crashed in Bali."

He now wants to arrive in Australia by January 26, the 200th anniversary of English settlement.

"I'll be Darwin's bicentennial gift," he joked.

Bahrain-UAE Army officials hold talks

ABU DHABI, Jan. 1. (Kuna): Bahraini Crown Prince and Army Commander in Chief Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa conferred yesterday evening with deputy supreme commander of the UAE Forces and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed.

The meeting dwelt on a number of issues of mutual interest and current conditions in the region in light of the positive results reached by the eighth summit of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders, which concluded last Tuesday in Riyadh.

It also tackled relations between the two Arab Gulf countries and means of promoting them.

Sheikh Hamad and accompanying delegation later attended a dinner hosted by Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed at his palace.

Earlier yesterday, the visiting Bahraini Crown Prince met with UAE Interior Minister Sheikh Mubarak Bin Hamad for a cordial exchange and was received by UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan.

Bahrain's Crown Prince, who flew in here Thursday night on a three-day official visit to the UAE, is scheduled to return home early Friday.

Admission for spring session

DR Mustafa Maarafi, the Dean of Admissions and Registration at Kuwait University, said that the names of students admitted for the spring session of 1988 would be announced within the next two weeks. He added that 330 students had applied for admission to the spring semester, with applications coming from Kuwaiti students and children of military staff, who had received 80 per cent of their Secondary School Certificate, and also relatives of Kuwaiti nationals.

Zakat House training programme yields results

THE director of the charity foundations department at Zakat House, Abdul Aziz Ahmad, said that the productive training programme had started to yield good results.

He explained that the project aims at providing vocational training to members of families supported by Zakat House to help the families to improve their condition and to be productive members of society. Families with greater need were given priority.

Study
He said that a full study of families that received monthly aid was made before starting the project. The families were then contacted to discuss the project and enlighten them about its goals and benefits.

The first group selected for

Weekly bazaars

A SOURCE at Kuwait Municipality said that a proposal was being considered to open weekly bazaars in the governorates, similar to the Friday Market, which was closed two years ago. The source added that these markets would be controlled by the Municipality which would ensure that fair sales standards were maintained. The source also said the Municipality and the General Warehouse Company were studying the sites which could be designated for these markets and if approved would be opened this year.

Four new universities

BAGHDAD, Jan. 1. (Reuters): Iraq will establish four new universities, raising the number in the country to 11. Baghdad newspapers said the new universities would be built in the towns of Tikrit, Diwaniya, Ramadi and Kufa.

New resolution turned down

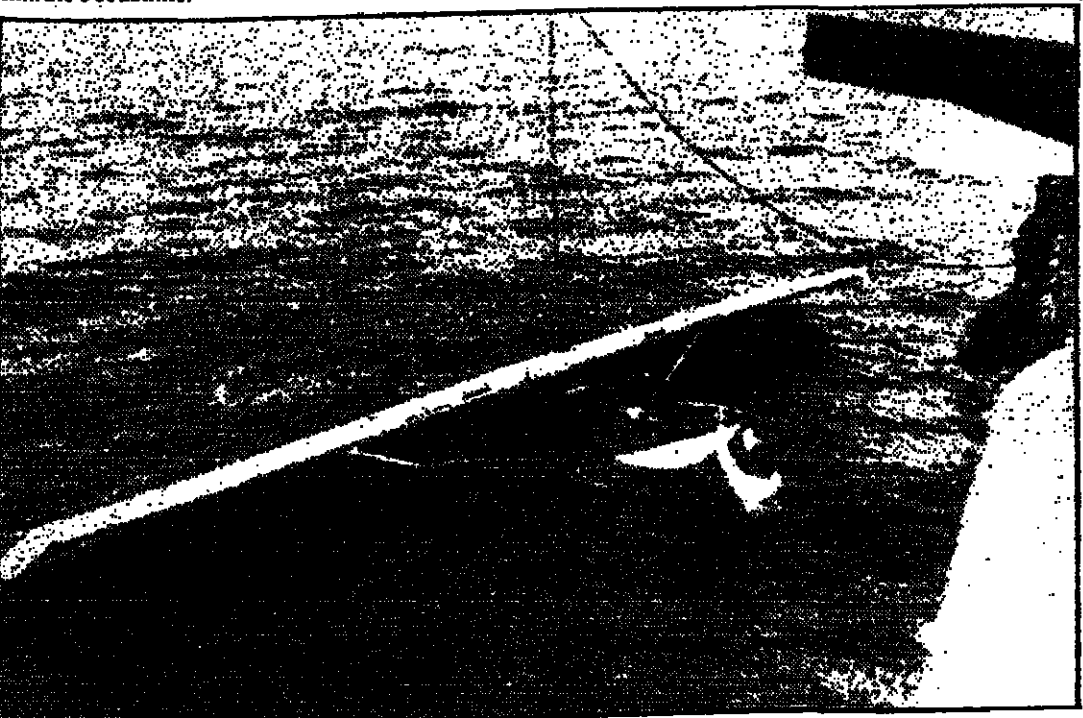
DUBAI, Jan. 1. (Kuna): Iraq and other Arab countries have turned down attempts aiming at issuing a new Security Council resolution on the Iraq-Iran war by changing the orders of the operational points in resolution 598 adopted last July, Al-Bayan newspaper quoted Arab diplomatic sources yesterday as saying.

The sources, which requested anonymity, said the rejection by Iraq and other Arab countries was based on the fact that the resolution 598 was adopted unanimously as a culmination of international efforts. It was approved by Iraq and endorsed by the extraordinary Arab summit conference of Amman last month.

Those sources argue that rearranging the operational articles of the resolutions will torpedo priority given to halting the conflict and deal a blow to all previous international efforts exerted toward that objective.

One killed in road accident

ONE man died in a traffic accident on Thursday. There were 18 traffic accidents in Kuwait on Thursday. Two took place in the capital, one in Hawalli, 12 in Ahmadi and three in Jahra.



Microlight pilot Brian Milton and his engineer Mike Atkinson spend Christmas Day with the Dalgety Flyer being rescued from the Gulf. (Reuters wirephoto)

EVENTS

KTV 1
weekly
highlights

SUNDAY

4.25 La Ilaha Illallah: historical serial. Starring: Yusuf Shababan, Ragha, Hala Fakher.

5.30 Al Manahala: 30-minute educational show for children, featuring Amal Dabbas, Tayseer Attiya, Rabe'e Shihab.

10.50 Sahrah Ma'a Musiqar: A Night with a Musician features composer Mohammad Sultan. Presented by Najwa Azzam.

MONDAY

5.30 Hakim Al Aqzam: cartoon serial.

5.30 Mama Anisa and Children: a weekly show for young viewers.

6.00 Diraat Taqniya: Technical Studies. A 25-minute weekly programme on science and technology.

10.50 Daerat Al Adhath (Circle of Events): Kamel Sulaiman presents this weekly talk show on Kuwait. This week, a look at rehabilitation of disabled people; training and facilities provided for them by the state. Guests are Abdul Rahman Salem Al Aiqi, Essa Yassin, Mohammad Hamad Al Humaidi.

TUESDAY

6.00 Fit Khidmat Al Jumhour: a local programme about health care and agriculture in Kuwait. This week, You and Your Health, presented by Dr. Rashed Al Owaish, focusses on health care facilities.

7.35 Al Quds: an eight-part programme on Al Quds. It focusses on the events preceding the 1967 war and its consequences. Guests on the show are Dr. Kamel Al Ilmi, Akram Zater, Raef Najm Al Amed and Faez Jaber.

9.50 Safahat Min Tareeq Al Kuwait: Pages from the History of Kuwait. A look at Kuwait's past, prepared and presented by Abdulrahman Ahmed.

WEDNESDAY

5.15 Bain Al Ams Wa Al Yum: Between Yesterday and Today is a new local programme for children dealing with progress in various fields. Children between the ages of 11 and 14 will take part in the show.

9.40 Anzar: Daily Arabic serial, starring Raja'a Hussein, Ibrahim Al Shami, Safa Al Sube'a.

10.50 Ayyam Aaliha: a variety show featuring Abu Bakr Ezzat, Mawfaq Bahjat, Ronzi, Fatima Eid, Marwan Adham.

THURSDAY

10.00 am Fit Ribab Tariya: An educational programme on various activities at public schools, focussing on teaching methods, sports, arts and music.

12.00 Ma Da'a An Anbama Min Akhar Jahan: a new serial starring Sheza Salem, Khalil Al Rifai, Mohammad Hussein Abdul Rahim, Sana Abdul Rahman. A historical serial, made by Iraq television.

4.15 The Persuaders: featuring Roger Moore, Maktabah Ala'a and Hina: a new serial for children, starring Ashraf Abdul Ghafoor, Madiha Hamdi, Abdul Munim Ibrahim.

10.30 Salam Ya Sahibi: Arabic feature film, starring Adel Imam, Saeed Saleh, Susan Badr, Mohammad Al Dafarawi.

FRIDAY

10.20 Hikayat Min Al Alam: Stories from the World. Dramatised stories for children.

3.15 Football: Kuwait vs Saudi Arabia, live broadcast from Saudi Arabia.

11.00 Quloob Eind Al Marafi: local serial featuring Ahmad Al Saleh, Marvam Al Saleh, Huda Hussein, Ibrahim Al Harbi.

TV CORNER

New programmes for the year

KTV 2 is to devote more than six hours of broadcast time to sports — local and world — on Thursdays and Fridays. Sports Studio will be shown at 3.10 pm on both these days, featuring everything from Big League Soccer to local matches. However, an occasional local football match might be shown on other days as well.

In the January schedule, a host of new programmes — mostly American — will be shown. The highlights surely are the Best-Sellers — Anastasia and A Year in the Life, which will be shown on Sunday and Monday nights at 10.30 pm.

Anastasia — The Story of Anna Anderson is about a woman who claims to be the youngest daughter of Tsar Nicholas Romanov. She was rescued from a Berlin canal in 1920 and later declares herself as Grand Duchess Anastasia, also known as Anna Anderson. The two-part serial focuses on Anna Anderson's lifetime struggle to prove her identity. Any Irving plays Anna. Others in the cast are Claire Bloom, Edward Fox, Rex Harrison, Olivia de Havilland, Susan Lucci, Jan Niklas, Omar Sharif, Elke Sommer and Nicholas Surrov.

The lives and relationships of the Gardner family, a suburban middle-class American family, are dealt with in A Year in the Life, a six-hour mini-series from Thomas Carter, the director of such series as Miami Vice and Hill Street Blues.

Bill Cosby, rated as the highest paid actor in the US, comes

Six hours of sports



Amy Irving and Rex Harrison in a scene from Anastasia.

back with his comedy — The Bill Cosby Show — on Thursday night. Another comedy is entitled The Tracy Ullman Show.

Back to the Future, Last Detail, Five Easy Pieces and Superman III are some of the films that might be shown on Cine Club on Tuesdays at 10.30 pm. Back to the Future has been listed as the movie this week.

Movies will also be shown on Saturdays and Thursdays, at 10.30 pm. Some of the Saturday films listed by KTV's new programme coordinator Shurhbil Al Sader are Sharks Paradise (Jan 2); Between Darkness and Dawn (Jan 9);

Harris Down Under (Jan 16), Uncle Tom's Cabin (Jan 21) and Three on a March (Jan 30). Thursday's late night movies, Al Saders said, would be Murder in 3 Acts (Jan 7), Force 10 from Navarone (Jan 14), Odessa File (Jan 21) and Ensign's Breaks (Jan 28).

The normal dose of documentaries includes Beyond 2000, The Wacky World of Sport, Roving Report, Silk Road, Q.E.D. and BBC's Horizon, Brazil and First Eden.

Action series lined up for January are Moonlighting, Hot Shots, The Law and Harry MacGray, Heart of the City, Buck James, Max Headroom

and Matlock. (Please see listings below for timing, not that really matters).

The director of KTV 2 Abdullah Rasheed said the January schedule is just the start of a whole new series of "the best American, British and Australian" shows that will be shown this year. He said KTV 2 is buying "music shows," which will be shown at a future date. However, he said that the format would not change meaning announcements would be in Arabic. Plans are afoot, he said, to extend the News in Brief broadcasting time and include more world news items on it. But, that is still in the pipeline.

Finally, apologies to Bruce Lee fans who might have been waiting for his film on Thursday night. Here's what happened: On Wednesday, after perusing several sheafs of paper, KTV 2 programmers gave us the details of the film "Murder in Music City," shown on New Year's Eve. We were told it was a Bruce Lee film. When it was broadcast it turned out to be a Lee Purcell movie. We were given wrong information. Last Monday, the news bulletin was delayed for about 30 minutes. Apparently, KTV 2 was waiting for a satellite film on the GCC summit from Saudi Arabia. But the anxious viewers were not informed of the delay.

This week on KTV 2

SUNDAY

6.00 Holy Quran

6.10 Lone Ranger: cartoons

6.30 Butterfly Island: "Lost on the Reef." Tourists go on a sea cruise and are involved in mysterious accidents.

7.00 Understanding Islam: a local show on Islam.

7.30 The Wacky World of Sports: a light-hearted look at sports.

8.00 News in English

8.40 Hot Shots: Amanda Reed (Dorothy Parke) and Jason West (Booth Savage) are two young, attractive and highly ambitious reporters for CrimeWorld, a magazine that covers unusual crimes around the world.

9.30 Foley Square: "Make My Day." Alex is a public prosecutor who tries to keep up with her work and love life.

10.00 Q.E.D. "The Invisible Killer." A disease on a cattle farm is examined by a group of vets.

10.30 Best-Seller: "Anastasia". In February 1920, a young woman is rescued from a Berlin canal after an unsuccessful suicide attempt. She is suffering from amnesia, malnutrition ... and bears the scars of bullet and bayonet wounds. A routine police investigation triggers her memory — she declares she is the Grand Duchess Anastasia, youngest daughter of the murdered Tsar Nicholas Romanov. In this two-part series, the story of Anna Anderson — Anastasia — is told.

MONDAY

6.00 Holy Quran

6.10 Yoga Treasure Hunt: cartoons

6.30 The Animal Express: a visit to zoos in the US.

7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world news, presented by KTV.

7.30 Chintz: a new series

8.00 News in English

8.40 The Law and Harry MacGraw: the story of a female lawyer and a

TUESDAY

6.00 Holy Quran

6.10 Rainbow Brite: "Invasion of Rainbow Land." Cartoons.

6.30 Side Kicks: Jason hates foreigners and starts a fight with Ernie and Rizzo.

7.00 Beyond 2000: a look at the latest advances in science and technology. This week, a report on TR 1A, a British surveillance plane; pocket colour TV; eye surgery.

8.00 News in English

8.40 You and the Law: a local programme

8.50 Heart of the City: "Cold Steel and ...". A hit man has been hired to kill a policeman's wife.

9.30 Tracy Ullman Show: a comedy featuring Tracy Ullman.

10.00 Cine Club: Back to the Future.

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

WEDNESDAY

6.00 Holy Quran

6.10 Get Along Gang: cartoons

6.30 Micro at Work: "Sorting Things Out." A look at computer systems.

6.50 The Living Isles: "After the Ice." A look at Scottish islands.

7.30 Growing Pains: "Long Day's Journey." Mike Gets a new girlfriend.

8.00 News in English

8.40 Back James: Dennis Weaver plays a cowboy-doctor who divides his time between caring for patients and looking after his farm.

9.30 The World of Strange Power: "Warnings From the Future." A look at inexplicable

THURSDAY

6.00 Holy Quran

6.10 Sports Studio: local and international football, basketball and volleyball matches.

6.00 Centurions: cartoons

6.30 The Mickey Mouse Club: a programme for young viewers.

7.00 Rags to Riches: As a publicity stunt, millionaire Nick Foley (Joseph Bologna) adopts six orphan girls. The result is a heartwarming and innovative series that combines family values, comedy and musical numbers.

8.00 News in English

8.40 Max Headroom: "Grossberg's Return." A rival TV station defames a reporter from Network 23 in attempting to get higher ratings.

9.30 Bill Cosby Show: "Bring Em Back Alive." Judy finds a snake in the basement of their home.

10.00 Paul Daniels Magic Show

10.30 Late Night Movie: Murder in 3 Acts

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

A still from "A Year in the Life Of", Mondays.



Dorothy Parke, Booth Savage and Paul Burke star in Hot Shots.

occurrences.

10.00 Perfect Strangers: "Life Covers." A young Greek arrives in the US — and look for a job.

10.30 Falcon Crest: Richard Channing joins forces with Stavros to foil Angela's plot.

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

THURSDAY

3.00 Holy Quran

3.10 Sports Studio: local and international football, basketball and volleyball matches.

6.00 Centurions: cartoons

6.30 The Mickey Mouse Club: a programme for young viewers.

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10.30 Late Night Movie: Murder in 3 Acts

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

FRIDAY
3.00 Holy Quran
3.10 Sports Studio: roundup

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Cairo Pharmacy
Al Omar Pharmacy
Awkal Complex, Mubarak
Al Kabir St.

Hawalli and Nagra
Al Waheed Pharmacy
Tunis St.

Bill Cosby Show: every Thursday at 9.30 pm

Salmiya and Rumaithiya
Al Markiziya Pharmacy
Asfour Bldg., Omar Bin Al Aas St.

Farwaniya
Al Yasmin Pharmacy
Jura Commercial Centre,
No. 1, Main St.

Jahra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Abdul Aziz Nasrullah
Bldg., Matafi St.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran

9.20 Hakim Al Aqzam: cartoon serial

10.15 Al La'abah: operette for children, featuring Nelli

10.35 Chitty Chitty Bang Bang: English film, featuring Dick Van Dyke, Sally Holmes. Comedy.

1.00 News Summary

1.20 World Today via Satellite

2.00 Ifrah Al Mahdar: Arabic play, starring Waheed Saif, Mimi Jamal, Mahmoud Al Jundi. Comedy.

3.35 Hakim Al Aqzam: cartoon serial

4.00 News Summary

4.05 Magazine D'Actualite

4.25 La Ilaha Illallah: historical serial. Starring Abdullah Al Ghaihi, Imaan Toqi, Ahmad Abdul Aziz, Ahmad Badr

5.15 Al Manahala: programme for children

5.45 Open University

7.00 News Summary

7.05 Noor Al Islam: "The Rights of Man in Islam." Guests are Dr. Ismael Ibrahim Badawi and Dr. Mustafa Mohammad Arjawi. Hosted by Ahmed Abdul Qadir.

7.35 Nazrat Alal Alam: documentary

7.45 security and Citizens

8.00 Security and Citizens

8.30 Good Evening and Local News

9.00 News in Arabic

10.05 An Anzar: daily serial

10.50 Dafatar Al Ayam: a talk show featuring poets and writers

12.00 News Summary

12.05 World News via Satellite

12.45 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran

6.10 Thundercats: "Mandora and the Pirate." Cartoons for children

6.30 Moon Jumper: Nicole trains a horse.

7.00 Lorne Greene's New Wilderness: "The Enchanted Forest." A look at wildlife in Yugoslavia.

7.30 Married with Children: a new series about a shoe retailer Al Biddy, his wife, Peggy and their two children.

8.00 News in English

8.40 Moonlighting: "A Trip to the Moon." Maddie and Dave come back in a new series. Tonight, Maddie deserts Dave. Starring: Bruce Willis, Cybil Shephard.

9.30 Silk Road: "Across Pamir." A trip to what is known as the Roof of the World.

10.30 Made-for-TV Movie: Shark's Paradise.

11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

WHAT'S ON

SOCIAL

Indiana University Goodwill Tour

A group of professors and students from the Indiana University, US, who are on a goodwill tour of the Gulf, will give a concert on Monday, Jan 4, at 7.30 pm in the auditorium of the Special Institutes, Cairo St. Hawaii. Their programme includes La Boheme and Tosca by Puccini; La Traviata and Rigoletto by Verdi. Daughter of the Regiment and Lucia Di Lammermoor by Donizetti and Pearl Fishers by Bizet. Adults and children over 15 are welcome. Free admission.

Vienna Boys Choir

Vienna Boys Choir will give

one performance at 8.00 pm on Jan 5 (Tuesday) in the Grand Ballroom at Kuwait Hilton Hotel. They will play a 40-minute piece by Johan Strauss — Tales from the Vienna Woods. They will also present excerpts from compositions by Franz Schubert, Peter Eben, Henry Purcell der Viadana and Benjamin Britten.

German-Speaking Cultural Association
The next meeting for German-speaking women will be held on Sunday, Jan 3, 10 am, at the Kuwait Hilton Hotel. All German speakers are welcome.

ASK Alumni Dinner

Friends and graduates of the American School, Kuwait, will hold an annual dinner at Regency Palace Hotel on Jan 3. The Arabic buffet will begin at 8 pm. For details phone Mrs Suzy Jones — 5314568.

HOTELS

At the Holiday Inn

Pastries, stollens and logs for the festive season and New Year items are available at the Lobby Lounge. Lunch featuring seasonal food will be offered at the Coffee Shop. Al Dana and Al Andalus. For details contact the hotel.

At the Meridien

Lunch and dinner featured in The Versailles, La Brasserie, At Remy and Tony's Jam session enjoy toe-tapping music on Thursday. Family fun on Friday in La Brasserie features a special menu, video cartoons, water games, magician and other attractions for all the family.

At the Ramada Al Salam

Special children's brunch parties will be held every Friday in El Bender. Lots of fun and games will be provided from 12 noon to 3 pm.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Police Story
Starring: Jackie Chan, Brigitte Lane

Al Salmiya
Jara Al Wuhoush (Arabic)
Starring: Noor Al Shariff, Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, Noora

Al Hanura
Howard
Starring: Lea Thompson, Jeffrey Jones

Drive-In
Ya Sadeeqi Kam Tasawi (Arabic)
Starring: Farid Shawki, Safiya Al Omari

Al Firdous
Aadmi (Hindi)
Starring: Dilip Kumar, Waheeda Rehman

Fahad Open-Air
Jeene Ki Aarzoo (Hindi)
Al Jahra
The Passage

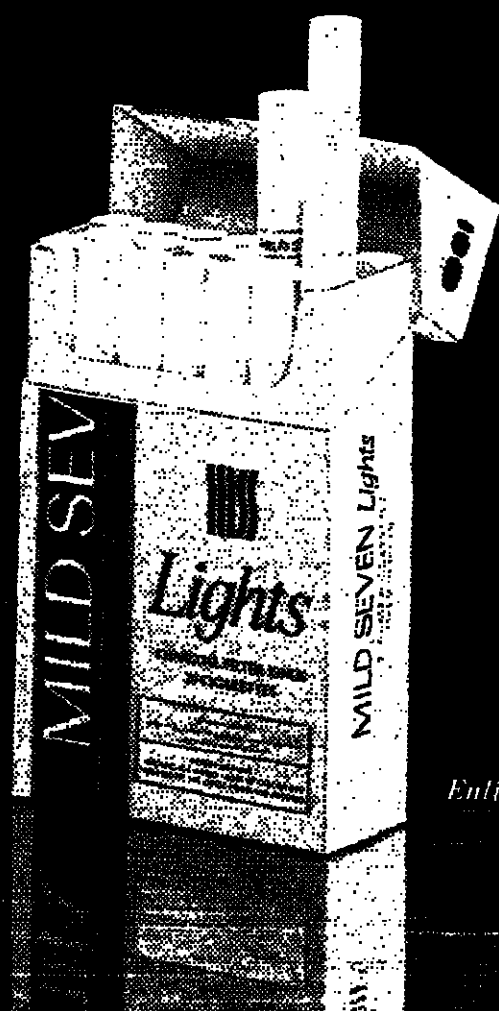
Al-Fahad
Neelakurini Poothapool (Malayalam)

Granada
Commando Leopard
Sulaibikhar
L'Adam Kifaya Al Adalah (Arabic)

Al Jleeb
Amritham Amaya (Malayalam)
Ahmad Drive-In
Choose Me

MILD SEVEN Lights

Discover the light breeze.



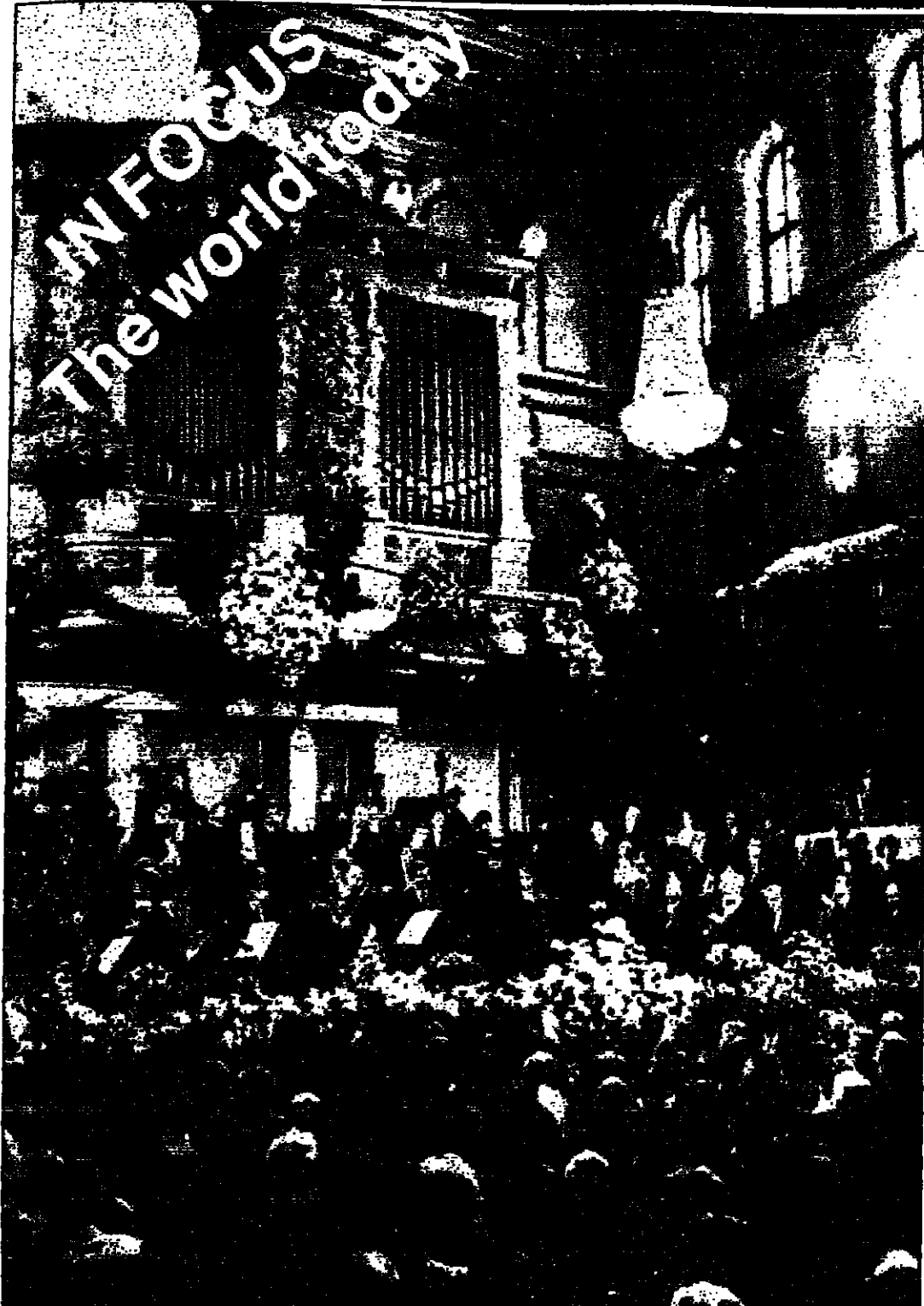
Enlighten your taste

JAPAN TOBACCO INC.

HEALTH WARNING: SMOKING IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF CANCER AND DISEASES OF THE LUNGS, HEART AND ARTERIES.

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.18 am
Zuhr 11.51
Asr 2.42 pm
Maghreb 5.01
Isha 6.23



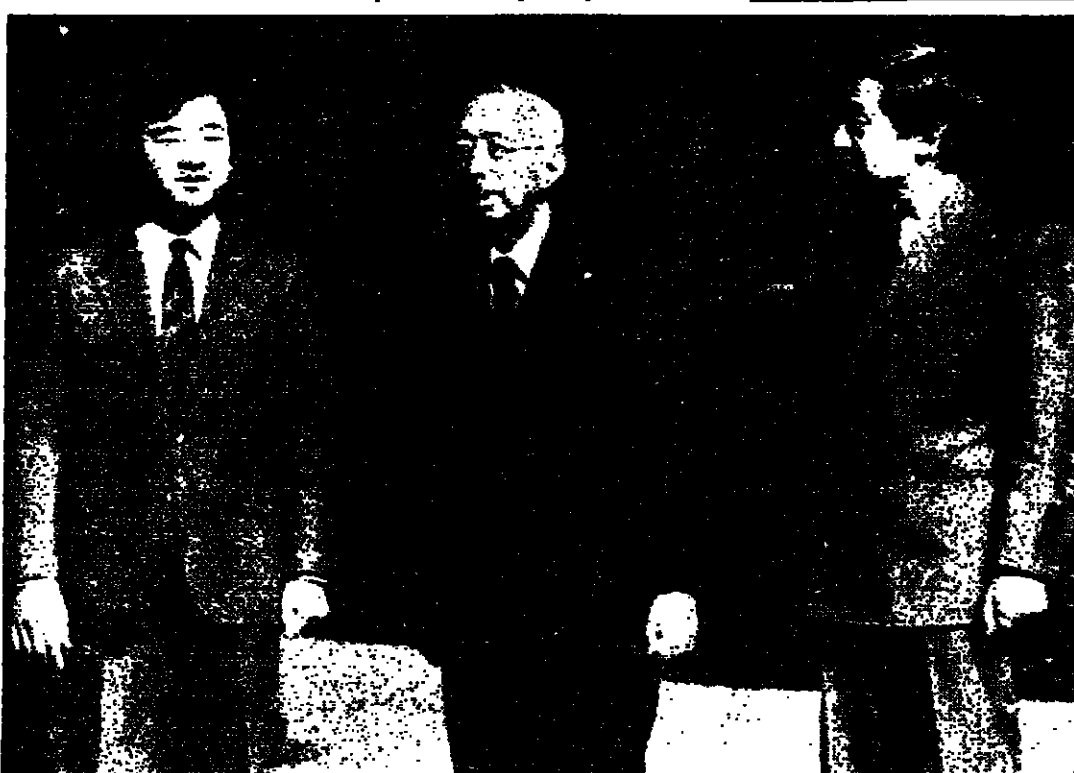
THE traditional New Year Concert from Vienna's Philharmoniker was conducted yesterday by Claudio Abbado. The concert is broadcast nearly worldwide on television; this year, for the first time, in China too. (Reuter wirephoto)



THREE-YEAR-OLD Henrietta Brakewell tries to touch the bubble on the painting by Sir John Everett Millais at Sotheby's auctioneers on Thursday. The painting, named Bubbles was painted in 1886, and became widely known when it was used to advertise Pears soap. The painting is part of a loan exhibition called Childhood which will raise money for the Save the Children Fund. (Reuter wirephoto)



SIR WILLIAM PENNEY (above), former chairman of the inquiry committee and Prime Minister Harold MacMillan (below) ordered that the inquiry report of the 1957 Windscale nuclear accident be re-written. In 1957 a fire in the Windscale Nuclear Plant (right), now called Sellafield, released radio-activity into the atmosphere. (Reuter wirephoto)



EMPEROR HIROHITO (centre), with the Crown Prince Akihito (right) and Prince Hiro, son of the Crown Prince, during a photo session for the New Year at the garden of the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. (Reuter wirephoto)



ROBERT Mugabe, newly elected executive President of Zimbabwe, thanks the outgoing president Canaan M'Banana after receiving the gold chain of office. The five-hour ceremony was held at Harare's national sports stadium. (Reuter wirephoto)



MEMBERS of the Spanish royal family pose for a picture at the northern ski resort of Baqueira Beret where they spend their annual Christmas holidays. Unlike past years, the lack of snow has made ski conditions poor. From left to right: Princess Elena, King Juan Carlos, Prince Felipe and Queen Sofia. (Reuter wirephoto)



HUYNH THU NGUYEN (left), daughter of an American soldier stationed in Vietnam during the Indochina war, was among 65 Amerasians allowed to leave the communist state for a new life in the US on Thursday. She came with her husband and four-year-old son Lam Quang Sinh, who clutched an American flag. (Reuter wirephoto)



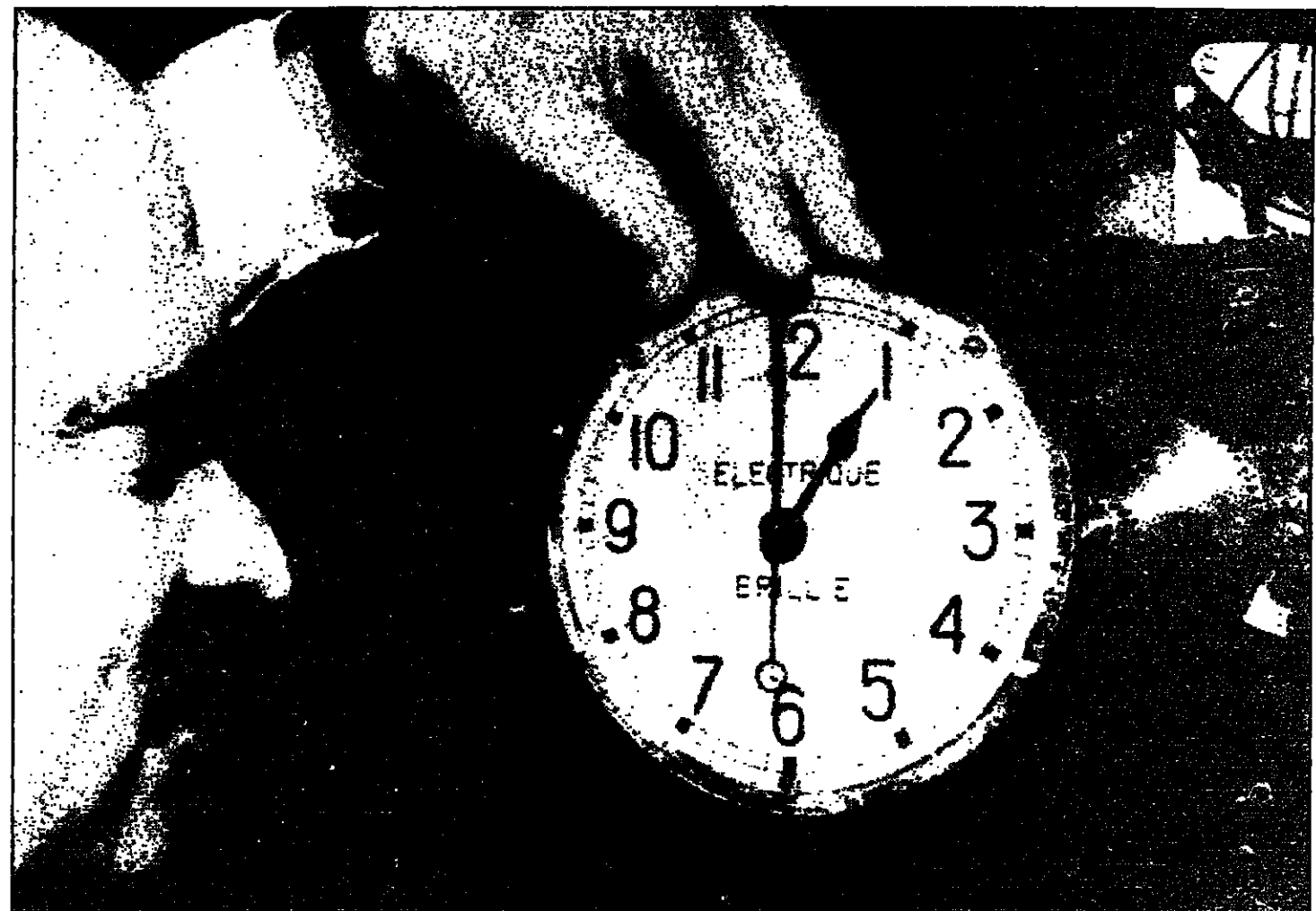
THESE amateur photographers try to get the best picture of an unidentified ski-jumper of the New Year ski-jumping competition of the Four-hills Tournament in Garmisch-Partenkirchen yesterday. Organisers had to prepare the jump with more than 2,000 metres of snow from higher tracks for the event. (Reuter wirephoto)



TAMA STARR, the timekeeper who makes sure the Big Apple ball decorated with 180 25-watt light bulbs doesn't drop too soon, late, fast, or slow, stands under the ball on the roof of 1 Time Square on Thursday. The big ball has dropped every year in the square since 1908 when her grandfather Jacob Starr started the New Year's Eve tradition. (Reuter wirephoto)



EATING chips can damage your health — at least in Belgium where six times out of ten the country's national dish is not fit to eat, a survey showed. According to the survey the main reason for the decline of Belgium's favourite dish was that chip makers were using the grease for too long, which could lead to serious kidney and blood disease. (Reuter wirephoto)



AN EMPLOYEE at the Paris-based Bureau International de l'Heure seen adjusting the clock after their decree that 1987 must be extended by a second, because of a slowdown in the earth's rotation. A spokesman said the earth loses one thousandth of a second against scientific time measured by atomic clocks. After two and a half years, this adds up to a whole second. (Reuter wirephoto)

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

A HAPPY life must be to a great extent a quiet life, for it is only in an atmosphere of quiet that true joy can live.

— Bertrand Russell, British philosopher 1872-1970.

More than mere cold weather

By William Echikson

PARIS: For Eastern Europe, this winter portends more than mere cold weather. It coincides with rising risks of food shortages and power cuts, student protests, and worker strikes — problems exacerbated by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's crusade to reinvigorate communism.

If, as in Poland and Hungary, East-bloc regimes follow the Soviet example and embark on economic reform, they must raise prices and taxes, close down unprofitable factories, and eliminate thousands of jobs.

Such proposals are not popular. Poles recently voted "no" to a referendum on market-oriented economic changes which included price increases of up to 200 per cent. And Hungarians complain about their government's intention to close down unprofitable steel mills, hold down incomes, and impose the communist world's first income tax. The plan, critics say, smacks of a new compound worthy of a Nobel Prize in chemistry: "Swedish taxes on Ethiopian wages."

"The type of reform Gorbachev is talking about is turning out to mean austerity, not prosperity," says Pierre Kende, an editor of a Hungarian exile magazine in Paris. "It's no magic recipe."

Degenerated

Clinging to the old status quo works no better. That became dramatically visible recently in Romania, home to the East bloc's most repressive regime. According to independent observers, about 20,000 workers went on a four-hour rampage in Nov last year in an industrial city to protest pay cuts. They shouted, "We want bread!" and "Down with the system!"

Romania illustrates just how far communism can degenerate without reform. The autocratic Nicolae Ceausescu opposes both glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring) and continues to run his economy the old communist way, through central command and rigid price controls. Frantic industrialisation has left the country with huge but hopelessly inefficient factories, while creating widespread food shortages in what once was Eastern Europe's breadbasket.

"The communist system can no longer substitute security, a

guaranteed job, and cheap housing for Western freedoms," says Jacques Rupnik, an East European specialist at the Institute of Political Science in Paris. Cold weather aggravates these explosive conditions. In November, 1987, Ceausescu imposed cuts of at least 30 per cent on power supplies. The average household will be rationed to using 40 watt light bulbs several hours a day, and Romanians will shiver in their apartments.

Although Romania is perhaps the scene of the most dramatic distress, it is not alone. Power cuts loom this winter in Poland, Bulgaria, and even in relatively prosperous Czechoslovakia. In the months ahead, fruits and vegetables are expected to disappear from the markets.

The problems are deep-rooted. While Western industries became leaner and more profitable after the recession of the 1980s, Soviet-bloc companies didn't modernize, and they let their products become obsolete. Developing countries such as Brazil and South Korea are pushing them out of competitive markets.

Deficit

As recently as 1985, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development reported that Eastern Europe ran a significant trade surplus with the West. Now, in a report released this month in Paris, the OECD said that Eastern European ran a large overall deficit of about \$3.5 billion in 1986. The OECD warned that the deficit is pushing up the region's indebtedness and could cause "problems of credit worthiness."

Yugoslavia, which has heavily overborrowed, should not be ignored in this discussion. Its experiment with market socialism, which included free emigration, free trade, and workers' councils, is floundering on efforts to close down unprofitable factories and cut soaring inflation. Since the government announced price increases and a wage freeze last month, strikes have erupted throughout the country.

"East Europe, including Yugoslavia, is going backward economically," says Pierre Hassenner, a specialist at the Centre for International Studies. "It is becoming part of the Third World."

The Christian Science Monitor.

Democrats in a dilemma

By Christopher Hanson

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): With re-born US presidential candidate Gary Hart and controversial Reverend Jesse Jackson leading the Democratic pack, their party faces a dilemma — many analysts think the two could never win the White House.

"They ... are distrusted by so many Americans that they are probably unelectable," declared veteran political columnist David Broder.

"Unless they find and unite behind an alternative, the Democrats will lose the White House for the fifth time in 20 years."

Many Republican and Democratic political experts agree.

Former Colorado Senator Hart, 51, stunned America by rejoining the race, seven months after he withdrew following newspaper allegations of an extramarital dalliance with attractive 29-year-old Miami model Donna Rice.

Several polls taken after Hart's return show him leading the field, running well ahead of all but Jackson.

A CBS news poll put Hart in the lead with 21 per cent. Jackson was in second place with 17 per cent.

In a Los Angeles Times survey, Hart drew 21 per cent to Jackson's 13 per cent.

And in an ABC news poll, Hart drew 28. Jackson 22.

But that poll also carried bad news for Hart — and for the Democrats if Hart were nominated.

Fifty-two per cent said he should not have re-entered the race. 39 per cent of the full sample (both parties) said they definitely would not vote for Hart, and 49 per cent said they had an

unfavourable impression of him — one of the highest negative ratings ever seen for a candidate, according to pollsters.

Certain

Hart's defeat in a general election against the Republicans was "close to certain," politics expert James Reichley of the private Brookings Institution think tank said in an interview.

Politics scholar James Barber, author of the Presidential Character, said Hart was likely to lose because of questions about "a blind spot in his character."

Barber said the Rice affair showed Hart failed to understand that his actions had consequences. Hart, for instance, invited reporters to spy on him, saying his private life was boring, when he was seeing Rice.

It was that general pattern of recklessness, not alleged adultery per se, that appeared to doom him politically.

The Los Angeles Times survey included a trial face-off between Hart and Vice President George Bush, widely viewed as the leading Republican contender.

Hart was trounced, drawing only 33 per cent to Bush's 61 per cent — a dramatic reversal from an ABC poll last January in which Hart beat Bush 57 to 35.

Jackson, who is black, has a loyal core of black supporters and a following on the party's left-wing.

But the Evangelical preacher and anti-poverty activist has never held elective office.

Reichley said Jackson was the only candidate more certain to lose a general election than Hart. Jackson could never prevail in a conservative country with an undercurrent of racism, especially given his left-leaning positions on domestic and foreign issues.

Thatcher on way to become longest serving UK leader

By Maureen Johnson

LONDON, (AP): Margaret Thatcher tomorrow becomes Britain's longest continuously serving prime minister this century, eight years and 244 days after she made history as the first woman to get the job.

From being a parity with uncertain survival prospects, the 62-year-old conservative Party leader is in a seemingly unassailable position as she overtakes Liberal Lord Herbert Henry Asquith's 1908-1916 tenure.

After winning a third five-year term with a thumping majority in June, the blonde mother of twins is set to lead Britain into the

1990s — and probably even run for a fourth term. She is already the longest serving leader in Western Europe.

She is hailed as having ended decades of British decline, but derided as a bossy, patronising leader under whom division widened between the prosperous and the poor, between the races and between the sexes.

Change

Both admirers and critics acknowledge she has wrought fundamental change, that she has identified with the aspirations of millions of Britons, and that after Thatcher — whenever that might be — things will never be the same again.

Economy has virtually collapsed

Burma at a turning point

RANGOON: After more than 25 years of toying with socialism and languishing under military rule, Burma is at a turning point.

Public discontent with the government is widespread and the economy has virtually collapsed. Burma's leader, Gen. Ne Win, has been forced to reconsider his socialist programme and to find a new face for his tightly run one-party state.

"When you arrive in Rangoon, set your watch back 30 years," the popular saying is almost literally true. More than any other nation in Southeast Asia, Burma is a place time has forgotten. The government's policy of isolation from the outside world and its meagre efforts at economic development have yielded few signs of progress. This fact is made all the more poignant by the beauty of the country and its people.

Cars from the 1950s and '60s cruise the streets, kept running on homemade spare parts. Buildings stand in advanced stages of disrepair, decrepit but often graceful reminders of the British colonial era (1886-1948).

Shortcomings of the state-run economy are obvious. Personal income has quadrupled since the military came to power in 1962, but consumer prices are 12 times what they were. Rangoon residents say wealth was once more or less evenly distributed, but now there is a large gap between the privileged rich and the masses of the poor.

Smuggling

The black market flourishes — from backdoor dealings for daily necessities to the smuggling of consumer goods. According to some estimates, the country's black market trade is equal to the total value of legal retail commerce.

The bright side to Burma's isolation is that traditional culture is prospering. Thanks to a modest flow of tourists and extensive smuggling abroad, the handicraft industry is booming. Many talented young people are drawn to the performing arts as dancers, musicians, and puppeteers, since traditional fes-

tivals are popular rural entertainment. "Burmese culture is thriving," says a Mandalay resident. "It's the only thing people have to hang on to in troubled times."

Some outsiders have romanticised Burma's plight.

"We like Burma just the way it is," crooned a couple from Wisconsin writing in the guest book of Rangoon's Strand Hotel (built in 1904). "We've been to paradise," gushed a group of French tourists.

But most visitors see no paradise. With the economy in deep crisis, some Burmese say a political crisis can't be far behind.

In August this year, General Ne Win for the first time spoke of the failures of the "Burmese way to socialism" at an unprecedented meeting of party and government leaders. He called for changes "to keep in harmony with the times."

Changes

Adjustments to his 25-year-old policies are expected at a congress of the Burma Socialist Program Party in 1988. But observers question how constructive the changes will be, especially since there is a lack of economic expertise at the top.

Ne Win was stirred to action, say Rangoon observers, by fears that the food-supply system would break down completely, bringing widespread rice shortages and social unrest. In September, "our dictator," as Burmese intellectuals often refer to him, lifted state controls on the retail trade and permitted private traders to deal in rice and other basic food commodities.

This was significant evidence Ne Win has been forced to re-examine his socialist policies, since he has long opposed private enterprise, say Burmese critics. But the food distribution system is in such disarray, and the rice harvest so poor, that a weak private sector appeared unlikely to offer much relief, given bureaucratic mismanagement and inadequate incentives for farmers. Critics conclude this is just what the general intended so

Thatcher: eyeing a fourth term

"I think she will be seen as the prime minister who turned Britain round," said Sir William Rees-Mogg, respected former editor of the Times of London.

Most Britons don't like their record-setting prime minister personally.

In one of her better scores, Mrs Thatcher was rated likeable by only 45 per cent in a Gallup December poll, compared with socialist Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock's 60 per cent.

Left-wingers see Mrs Thatcher's crusade to make Britain great again and wipe out socialism as a skillfully disguised appeal to greed.

"She has changed people by

appealing to the darker side of what we are," said legislator Ken Livingstone, a prominent member of the Labour Party, which Mrs Thatcher ousted from power in May 1979.

Better

"People in Britain today are more self-seeking, more self-centred and a lot of that is due to her style of management," Livingstone added.

Most Britons are also better off.

Average earnings have nearly doubled since 1980 to £199 (\$376) a week. First-time stock owners, buying shares in sales of state-owned enterprises, have tripled to eight million. Two-thirds of Britons own their homes, up from 50 per cent in 1980.

The rich are also richer and the poor poorer. The top 10 per cent of employees now make 10 times more than the lowest paid 10 per cent.

Unemployment is down from a 1983 record of 13 per cent to a five-year low of 9.5 per cent, or 2.65 million people. Their ranks include what London School of Economics sociology professor Ral Dahrendorf calls a permanent underclass — second-generation jobless left behind in inner-city ghettos of rising crime and resentment.

Britain's standing has increased internationally under Mrs Thatcher, US President Ronald Reagan's closest ally. But critics argue she has never really identified this country with its European Economic Community partners.

Energetic

The energy of the grocer's daughter appears undiminished after two terms spent taming the Labour unions and reducing the prospects of socialism, at least in its more orthodox form.

Mrs Thatcher is embarked on perhaps her most controversial

legislative programme yet — an overhaul of schooling, property taxes and state-run housing.

In a New Year message, she called it the "greatest programme of reforming legislation this century."

Underlining the risks, the bill that will levy property taxes on every adult — as opposed to each home — provoked a revolt by Conservative rank-and-file members of Parliament. That slashed the government's 102-seat majority in the 650-member House of Commons to 72 at its initial legislative stage in November.

Opposition splits that have helped Mrs Thatcher win big parliamentary majorities with only 42 per cent of the vote may diminish before the next election, due in 1992. The centrist Social Democratic-Liberal Party alliance has collapsed in a dispute over merger, and Labour is embarked on a long-term policy review.

Fourth

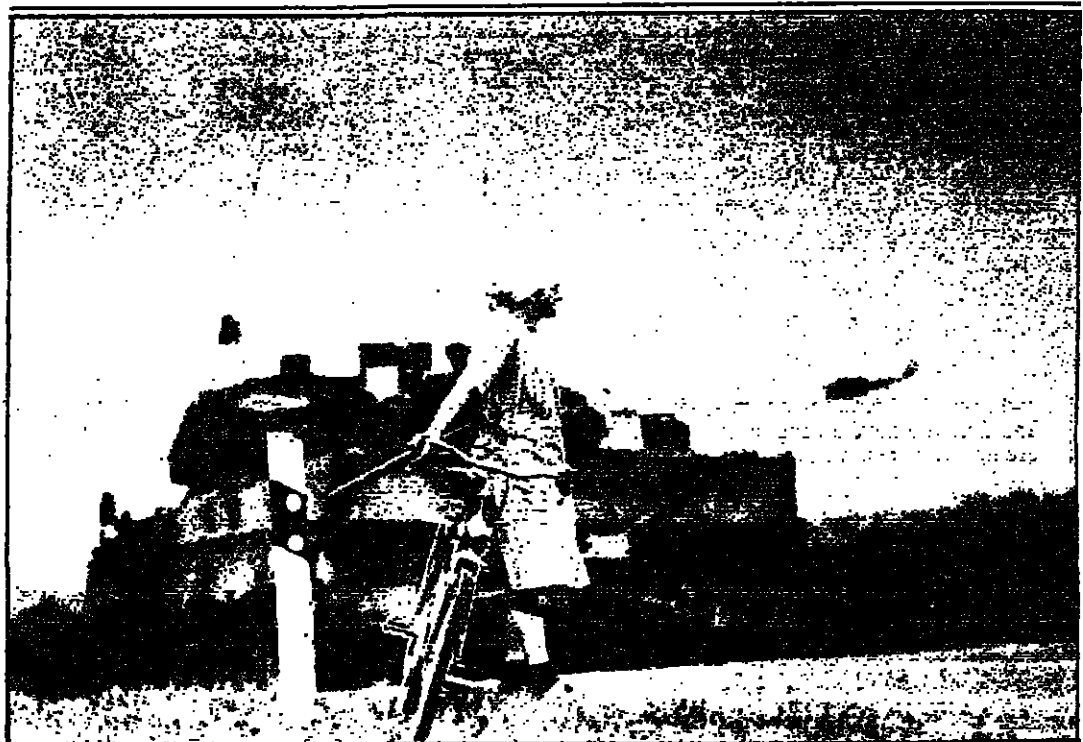
Mrs Thatcher enters 1988 with the prospect of at least approaching another record. A fourth term, if she served it through, would take her, at 72, to within three years of overhauling Sir Robert Walpole (1721-1742) as the longest serving British Prime minister of all time.

Many analysts, however, predict she will fight a fourth election and stand down about 18 months later.

A major factor in an earlier departure could be her husband, Denis Thatcher, a wealthy retired businessman whose devotion and sacrifices of family time and privacy she readily acknowledges.

But during the June election campaign, Mrs Thatcher said she wanted to "go on and on."

"We have raised it (Britain) ... from what it was — broke, bankrupt, unwilling to defend itself properly. We have, I think, transformed Britain," she said of her first eight years.



A West German woman waits as a Leopard tank rumbles by during Nato manoeuvres.

Sowing potatoes, harvesting tanks

By Elizabeth Pond

BONN: In spring the West German farmer plants his potatoes. In fall he harvests tanks. And it is this price he pays for the defence readiness of Nato that has helped bring about Western Europe's longest period of peace in this century.

In the United States, in Britain, even in France, defence is an abstract. The boys in uniform march elsewhere to do their job. In West Germany, that elsewhere is right around the corner. Every autumn after the crops have been gathered into barns, treaded vehicles rumble across the overturned sod, convoys clog the Autobahns, shooting breaks the evening silence, and camouflage-clad troops lurk in the woods to surprise Sunday strollers.

In the US, manoeuvres can be conducted away from public view, on tracts such as the 217,000 acres of Fort Hood, Texas, a single range that would swallow up all of West Germany's military training areas.

Damage

In this country, with a population a quarter the size of the United States squeezed into territory the size of Oregon and set on the front line between East and West, no such isolation is possible. Exercises must take place in and around villages and towns. Battalion headquarters is likely to be a requisitioned shed nestled among half-timber houses with cascading flower gardens. The helpd is likely to be the local soccer field.

Soldiers are ordered to be polite, to pick up their garbage, to hug the edges of fields with their tanks, and not to foul water, tear down fences, or chew up unharvested sugar beets with their tanks' treads. And last year new regulations banned low flights by noisy military jets during the midday rest hour from 12:30 to 1:30.

But damage does occur when,

as between Sept 1 and Nov 25 of this year, some two dozens manoeuvres were staged with 335,000 West German, American, British, Dutch, Belgian, French, and other troops. Each year 130 to 160 million marks (\$80 million to \$100 million) are dispensed in civilian compensation.

The public usually tolerates the periodic disruption to a degree that would probably be unimaginable in, say, Connecticut, or any other part of the US with a population density comparable to that of West Germany's. Largest airfield since D-Day.

The local pub owner gets a modest increase in business from off-duty staff officers. Schoolboys enjoy the excitement of racing on their bicycles to see the helicopters land. Despite some grumbling and a few sporadic

lawsuits about grievances, most citizens tend to welcome the soldiers to their neighbourhoods. A number of local residents offer them coffee and breakfast, West German Defence Ministry spokesmen say.

Commitment

This year the two biggest manoeuvres took place in Lower Saxony and Bavaria: Nato's Certain Strike and the French-German Cheeky Sparrow. In Certain Strike, 31,000 GIs were flown across the Atlantic in the largest airlift of American forces to Europe since D-Day in 1944 to join 50,000 other servicemen in securing the north German plain.

In Cheeky Sparrow, 20,000 French Rapid Action Forces were transported to Bavaria by vehicle or aircraft to relieve 55,000 West Germans, link up in a bridging operation across the Danube River — and demonstrate French evolution away from go-it-alone Gaullism toward firmer commitment to help defend West Germany. The Christian Science Monitor.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1492 — Spain captures Granada from Moors.
- 1799 — Britain joins Russia-Turkish alliance; Napoleon Bonaparte advances into Syria.
- 1900 — Open door policy in China is announced by US Secretary of State John Hay.
- 1905 — Russians surrender Manchurian city of Port Arthur to Japanese.
- 1909 — Dismissal of Yuan Shih-Ka places Chinese administration in Manchuria hands.
- 1913 — Turkish garrison on Chios island surrenders to Greeks.
- 1932 — Manchukuo republic is proclaimed in Manchuria.
- 1933 — Anarchists and Syndicalists uprising starts in Barcelona.
- 1937 — Anglo-Italian agreement on Mediterranean and for maintaining independence of Spain.
- 1942 — Philippines capital of Manila is captured by Japanese in World War II.
- 1943 — Germans begin withdrawal from Caucasus.
- 1965 — Ayub Khan wins Pakistan presidential elections.
- 1971 — Sixty-six people suffocate and are trampled to death when crowd barrier gives way at soccer match in Glasgow, Scotland.
- 1976 — Soviet Union hardens stand on emigration despite 1975 Helsinki agreement to permit freer movement of people and ideas in Europe.
- 1987 — New year gets off to violent start in Northern Ireland as gunmen shoot part-time soldier and his mother, and Irish Republican Army shells security base.

مكتبة الأمل

What is in store for you in 1988

CAPRICORN

(Dec 22 — Jan 20)



SO you want to hear the good news first? (There is plenty in store.) Or how about getting the bad news out of the way now, since you are a pessimist ... and you like your good luck to be a surprise.

Capricorn faces only one major planetary set-back in 1988. But it is major. We may feel justified indeed in calling the planet Neptune a "set-back". Neptune has been in the sign of Capricorn since 1984. And so the tenacious, resilient Goat has been learning to bounce back. But if I say that no other astrological principle can be as painful as this one, it is not to depress you, since you know how hard getting to grips with this particular bugbear has been.

What Neptune does is dissolve.

Therefore, it is a strange adversary, something like a wrestling match with the Invisible Man. Capricorn is territorial, strong and stubborn. But defending your territory and status is a weird necessity when you can't actually define what is really sucking energy from your world; and to explain to friends and colleagues why you feel something serious is happening to you is equally impossible. They are not able to feel that sympathetic when you say "I feel there is a sort of cloud hanging around, draining away my confidence and assets." But you can't be more specific.

Delaying tactics

Your projects are blocked, and all too often when you would be justified in expecting a victory, the news comes through that it's a delay after all: no reason, just someone's whim, but that someone is in charge and you're not; strange in itself for

Capricorn, who usually retains a grip on the reins.

It even seems that the faster, more methodical and efficient you are, now, the more you have to re-do the work.

So how on earth can I justify calling Neptune a beneficial influence?

For of course, after many months of this nothingness being apparently the chief feature of one's existence, the doubts come creeping in: Is this all there is to life? Other people can do, can I only be now?

These are the questions Neptune wants us to ask, the only questions that are left once Neptune has withdrawn almost everything reassuringly definite in our world.

It is a fact that nature abhors a vacuum, and these planetary cycles are mighty natural seasons just like Winter and Spring. So, when the concrete and tangible has fluctuated, what can flow in to fill the space in us? Sure thing, Neptune is the spirit of the Holy Ghost just as much as it is the ghost in the machine.

The accumulated experience of the Holy Ghost's nature seems to be that it moves in as the old Adam moves out. And besides Aries, which sign is more the Old Adam than our Goat? Capricorn's long-time material gains are being dissolved, but they are being replaced and the Goat is becoming more and more spiritually rich even as we speak.

Look at the Capricorns who are taking on a protegee to guide and to teach, who are working for charity, doing community work ...

Capricorn will have most fun this year in March/May and November, and from mid February to early June will even be able to get cherished projects into the pipeline as your ruler Saturn at that time is in your sign to give you back-up, to consolidate your aims effectively.

Love lines

Love will be GOOD ... most especially in January, March, October and December. Maybe not as comfortable as you deserve. But as those barriers between you and others melt away, you are open to other's warmth as never before. It is no accident that Venus spent an unusually long stay (four months) beaming in on Capricorn in 1986, softening up your hard edges, so that you began last year sure as never before of your essentially loveability — and with no doubts that you are loved. Now the process continues. Capricorn has never had any difficulty in loving others: only in showing it, and most of all in receiving love without suspicion. This pessimism need no longer colour Capricorn's love relationships. These progress now from good to better.

New enthusiasms

In December (with a foretaste of the same in Spring) the sizzling Uranus enters your own sign. Dynamic magnetic attractions will from then on litter your path, pepping up your way through the minefield of life no end. Be warned, there will be goodbyes as well as hellos, and which is best may be far from clear, especially with Neptune's power to obscure any issue.

Problems with drugs and medication may surface. If not with you personally (you mostly resent the wasteful, ephemeral action of a "high") then someone in your nearest, dearest circle may cause you agony with their irresponsibility or addictions. But they can remedy it if you leave them to do so. Remember in '88 for your own precious emotional preservation: those you love, cherish: but do not spoil.

YOU have survived a gruelling couple of years, quite how, you are to this day not sure. How have you been able to absorb the emotional strain? True, you are more secure, you exercise more personal power, your career has developed impetus and at a higher level. But how rejected personally you feel amid it all! How oddly your flow of personal confidence and joy has been blocked by an unsought rival, someone who arrived on the scene out of the blue and proceeded to throw their weight against your projects.

Somehow you have retained your equilibrium, but there have been times when it was tough and go, when you clenched your fists to the skies, demanding "Why me?"

You are inclined to feel that you are the least aggressive of creatures, and that this aggression you have "attracted" has been utterly gratuitous and totally undeserved.

This is true, in one way — but what the powerhouse principle of the planet Pluto, in square to you in the area of your profession or vocation, is showing you now is that you are immensely power-oriented and, yes, powerful in yourself. Yes, you, the democrat, the social worker, humanistic Aquarius. You must already know from old how fixed and immovable you can be in your attitudes: well, this equals plain power, doesn't it? And isn't it an attitude that challenges others? You are far from flexible on issues where you already have a position.

Well, this in itself is a red rag to some bulls, and they are the bulls on the rampage in your area recently. It's not that you "should" shift (just to please them?). Astrology isn't about "should" in that way. But it is up to you now to note that power and clout and hierarchy do exist, whether you approve or not, and that you have a rung on the ladder in there: you are not exempt, you are not an outsider.

You must now re-appraise your attitude, and indeed your

position, and if you then intend to win, you must admit that you too use power, just as your rivals or challengers do. You are not used to this game, as you've always loathed power games and gamesmanship. The secret is to recognise power and to wield it effectively (which is quite different from abusing it, so relax).

Your image

Your errors will be seized on publicly, for you are playing in the limelight right now. You will however make fewer errors this year than last!

Rest assured that, meanwhile, your unsought opponents will make mistakes from their own arrogance without you having to fret about whether you should be fighting harder or not. Give them plenty of rope and they'll begin to trip themselves up around Spring, finally admitting defeat and bowing out in the Autumn. You're getting into your stride now, Aquarius, and your natural grasp of ethics and morality will help you hold fast to your integrity, probably without exception your most prized possession.

Talking of possessions, which you don't usually, finances are happily starred for you all year but especially before the 8th March, when Jupiter the luck-bringer remains in helpful Aries. Transport, oddly enough, is extra fortunate for you. Is it a bargain set of wheels, or even a car as a surprise and welcome gift?

Even if you only travel by bus, you are on a friendlier route, and if you commute you will find it more fun and more efficient than usual.

In the latter half of 1988, from July onwards, Jupiter is in Gemini and your whole playground lights up. (You'd forgotten you have one, right?)

Love, romance, leisure begins to bounce. Children or a child bring you an unexpected illumination on a subject you once

studied and researched and have more recently forgotten about. (By the way, this year you seem to begin teaching something: a language, a mode of communication.) You are likely to be in a college ambience before April, and to be drawing the best from that experience.

Brothers or sisters, if you have these in your life, now figure freshly, as though you are seeing them in a new light: this is especially true in the first week of March.

September 11th-12th is a key time to note. Around then, something of an epoch is marked for you as regards a child, a romance — or both.

A new love?

You appear to be meeting a new lover, who has a child. There is some mixture of love and play and childhood things showing up here in an expansive and joyous way, and this is a trend which continues on into next year too.

To take advantage in the best way possible, seek to get your voice heard by the maximum number of people.

Career prospects

For the many Aquarians with connections in show business, July through to December (and beyond) also brings a booster. There is some delightful idea afoot which appears to take off in a big way for you in the second six months of 1988. Certainly you are unusually creative from July on, and others with finance to spare are more than usually inclined to back your vision.

If you are in the splendid situation of being able to choose between sponsors, select the mentor with the best access to the widest public. Your ideas and ideals now benefit from going out to the largest possible audience.

AQUARIUS

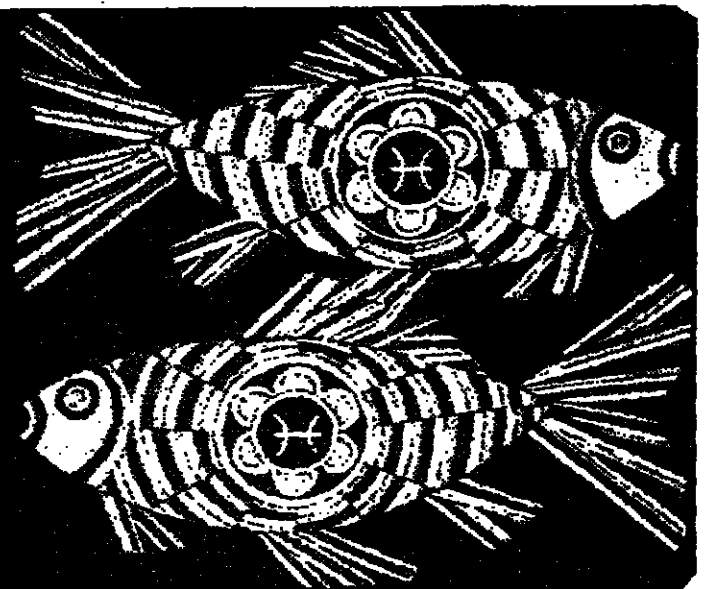
(Jan 21 — Feb 19)



Earlier seeds of this project's success are to be sown before March 8th, so be alert for opportunities then in particular.

PISCES

(Feb 20 — Mar 20)



THE effect of Neptune long-term in Capricorn, so distressing for Capricorn with all that hanging loose to be done, is quite different for you Pisceans. Last year Neptune was the influence keeping you thoroughly creative, mellow and solid.

And that's in spite of the stress on you from Saturn at the top of your solar chart, pressing on your sense of idealism and vocation: you have a sense of urgency (must get it together) as though there were no sand left in your vocational hourglass.

It's not your hourglass that's short of sand, but Saturn's. He has the original time fixation. He's currently nagging you about getting your ideals through to the finish-line.

And it's true, he has only two and a half years at a time to get each of us sorted out. He is hurrying you along, overworking you, piling responsibility on to your shoulders.

You may blossom under this onslaught of attention, or you may wilt. Either way, it's no matter to Saturn: or to translate, the sense of pitiless urgency in your own head is driving you now. Take vitamins. Saturn has only 1988 left in which to overwork you now, and when he leaves, and you draw your sighs of relief, you will have extra medals, extra badges, BIG status. Being Pisces, you won't even notice.

I make no apology for referring to the planet Saturn as "he". Given that the movement of the planets appears part of some cosmic clock or calendar of rhythms involving all of us and everything else, Saturn's action contains all we've ever accepted as representing "the wise old man" of archetype.

Putting paid to the fable that it is women who nag, it is this wise old man who insists that whatever he prescribes, we jump to it. And just for the moment, jump to his commands you must.

Jupiter also seems to partake of a certain maleness, but where Saturn insists that we give of our last ounce of strength, Jupiter gives and we receive — a cornucopia of whatever he happens to

be showering out on us.

Jupiter always affects Pisces. Other signs yearn for Jupiter to come around and warm them up, but Pisces never suffers real deprivation of Jupiter's effects. So Pisces is ever optimistic, and never cold to the marrow of its bones in the way of the rest of the zodiac when Jupiter is too occupied elsewhere.

The months between February and June see Saturn dipping into your area of friendships and any groups, clubs or societies you belong to. In some ways these activities will become far more important to you, and more serious: if you joined a group for fun, you will now find it on the verge of a breakthrough, maybe campaigning for new nights, perhaps a force in the land! You won't desert your group, in fact you will move into a position of responsibility and help it in its push forward. In the course of this activity you will be forming a new friendship which will be unusually stable and supportive for a long time to come.

Home and family

Your home life, family life, benefit after July 1988 from the definite ambience of Jupiter in Gemini in your arena of roots and security.

The dichotomy, however, is that this benefit in your home life will have a restless nature to it.

For very many of you now, there will be a footloose, nomadic quality to your home life, happy and inspirational as it will be. Do you move to a houseboat, or put everything into a backpack?

Above all, Pisceans in the latter half of 1988 will be involved in some community dedicated to education of a very specialist type. You will also be at home in this community: it will to some extent be providing the roof above your head.

Your emotions

There is an odd, important and difficult astrological configuration for you accompanying the eclipse and Full Moon of 3rd March. Whatever is happening for you at that time (and it will be both stormy and vague, a discomfiting combination) you must note it particularly, as it is an effect that will linger on through your year and culminate around the first week of September. You will have understood it by September, but for the intervening months it will be a puzzle and conundrum. It is to do with partnership. It is also something to do with the whole problem of being analytical and realistic regarding this relationship without letting the warmth and magic ebb out of it. Is there no end to the major happenings lining up for you?

New adventures

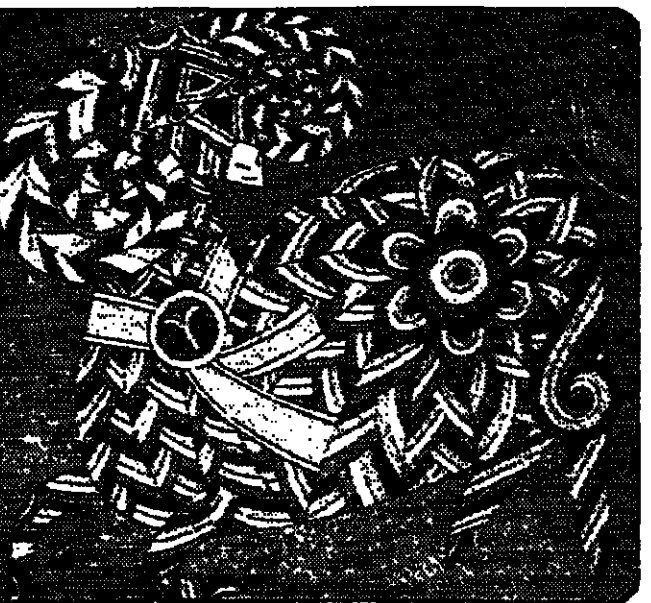
You begin April with a new adventure: the planet Uranus, governing the principle of the unexpected, moves into your area of hopes and wishes. Work this one out for yourself, and the effect of wanting something different pitchforks you into the society of electrifying new companions — and equally, it is your introduction to vivid new scenes that awaken fresh ambitions and fresh enthusiasms.

You are not generally ambitious, but these particular aims are fulfilling for you, and somehow matter more because they're involved with your ideals. And all this is linked to the new stability and supportiveness I mentioned earlier.

So it appears that Pisceans are in the pleasant position of being able to pick and choose this year between exciting companions and steady comrades: or else, that rare and best combination that these are one and the same. August 27th is a key date here. I know that's rather a while off, but it certainly is interesting enough to be thoroughly worth waiting for!

ARIES

(Mar 21 — April 20)



what a comfort while it lasts.

To be continued

JUPITER the indulgent uncle of the cosmos leaves Aires in early March — but only to dip into Taurus, where it acts to solidify some property hopes for you: your castle in the air materialises in the splendid weeks between March and late July.

You are probably reading this now in January, and so dire and dark is the month that you cannot visualise a more golden time. January 1988 is an especially problematic month for you if your birthday is the 27th or 28th of March. The only really bright area, but it's a beautiful one, is that of friendships: a number of people you respect are steadily indicating how much they are of value as the year begins.

However, the second half of 1988 is the period containing truly excellent news.

Although you still have Neptune to contend with, obscuring your horizons, and although it will continue to be difficult to see the wood for the trees, what splendid trees!

Striking lucky

It must be said, however, that this Jupiterian largesse of July to December (and beyond into 1989) will not take an especially material form. Doesn't much matter, presumably, as you are one of the least acquisitive signs — except that you do like your wheels, your gadgets, your word-processor — and these are just exactly the kind of goodies on offer from July on. But more important to you, there are honours, there are thrills, there are opportunities for sport and travel in the kind of company you must enjoy. You can and will wheel and deal at this time as almost never before. You will strike bargains and you will strike lucky. So gamble a little.

Difficulty patches? Besides January itself, there's one little sticky patch between July 12th and 23rd which is worth mentioning here — if you're ready for it, you're far less likely to

let it make you down-hearted.

Your emotions

You will feel during this short time that you can't please anyone and that it is hardly worth trying, as everyone around you is so demanding and yet so contradictory — so sentimental, yet so cold (this is from your standpoint! — read their horoscope that month to find out how they see it all.) And yet it could easily get you down, for you like to believe in people, in fact you rather like to see your favourite people in quiet a heroic light, and as much as you apparently disappoint others' expectations in this phase, equally others disillusion you.

Then, the first week of September, last week of September and most of October are pretty knotty. You unravel this only by sheer yomping through — sloping along, getting by, which is not yet your style. You prefer to display honour and gallantry, but in September and October you flex your pretty muscles in your usual elegantly hot-headed manner, and find that you are on the whole spoiling the broth for a penn'orth of peas, giving others the impression of merely flying off the handle or spoiling for a scrap when what you intended was the flinging down of a knightly gauntlet. Perhaps your opponents/colleagues just aren't up to your own standards at this point, or else you have too much energy without any clear channel for it.

But these are only molehills tripping you up; you'll find the sunlit road inviting nevertheless.

This sense of adventure spills over into your career itself. It is adventure plus mystery, perhaps the best kind, for it is still not clear what you are actually truly aiming for — least of all to yourself. This is unfamiliar behaviour to you, who are generally so outright and crisp about what you want and how you want it.



Carol Decker

Who and what is T'pau

T'PAU is the name of the groups who "hail" from the sleepy hamlet (well, quite large town actually) of Shrewsbury in the county of Shropshire, and who are merrily up the charts.

● The name T'pau is also the name of the Vulcan high priestess in Star Trek. Mr Spock's mother no less. When they were in America a chap came to interview them wearing a pair of Mr Spock ears, which irked them a bit because they're not particularly interested in Star Trek at all.

The band is "fronted" by Carol Decker, something of a wild woman of rock who describes herself as both "a good-time girl" and "very very much one of the boys."

The rest of the group consists of Carol's sweetheart, Ronnie Rogers (with whom she invents their tunes) and four other blokes who are, or not particularly pretty.

Carol has such a belting voice that when she was in her school choir she used to drown out all the other girls. Her choir mistress Miss Morris used to say "Decker, shut up."

● She doesn't like being compared with other female singers and reckons she's got more in common with Jon Bon Jovi!

She went to "a very proper girls grammar school" then went to art college before working as a barmaid, a waitress and a life-guard.

● "I like a tippie," says Carol, "and when I go on a bender I get absolutely bloody legless."

After one spirited "bender" in Chicago she vomited with such force that her rather expensive earnings fell off. "They were in there with the tomato skins and diced carrots," she recalls.

● What a shocking lass!

Ex-Rolling Stone reveals power-struggle that destroyed rock band

Richards: no objection to re-uniting Stones

By John Swenson

NEW YORK, (UPI): After 25 years powering the world's greatest rock band, guitarist Keith Richards is finding out that there is life after the Rolling Stones.

Richards has had a full plate since completing his last official duties for the Stones on the "Dirty Work" album, forming several different working groups for a variety of projects. There were the sessions with Aretha Franklin that produced Lady Soul's galvanic rendition of "Jumpin' Jack Flash", and lots of studio work for his forthcoming solo debut album.

But Richards' most amazing accomplishment is the reclamation project he performed as musical director for the film "Chuck Berry hail, hail, rock 'n' roll."

The band he assembled for this picture is the most sympathetic unit the melody and self-destructive Berry has ever played with.

Berry's classic material, so long neglected by his own attitude toward it, is recreated in all of its glory by a band that sounds like it could give the Stones a run for their money.

"It's a trick to put a bunch of guys together and make them sound as if they'd been playing together for years after only a few days," Richards said while sipping a glass of Rebel Yell and soda at his New York office.

"It's very difficult to do, but in the last year I've realized that I can do that. It was the same with the Aretha Franklin. We were there only three days but we were a band at the end of it."

"It's an ingredient that I've always taken for granted with the Stones, but it always worried me that I might not be able to get that important ingredient just like that again. I found that it can be done."

When the idea of putting together a special concert for Berry's 60th birthday came up, Richards jumped at the opportunity.

"It's one of those offers you can't refuse," he laughed. "I knew it wasn't gonna be easy. Chuck's not an easy guy to work with. In fact nobody's



The early Rolling Stones lineup (left to right): Bill Wyman, Keith Richards, Mick Jagger, Brian Jones and Charlie Watts. They became one of the world's most famous rock bands.

worked with him for years because he always plays with pickup bands who show up at the gigs.

One of the pleasant side effects of Richards' busy schedule is that his feud with stonies co-leader Mick Jagger has subsided. "I haven't got time for that now," Richards said, acknowledging that the hard feelings were definitely real.

"I guess that's one of the reasons the Stones at the moment aren't working together," he admitted. "I was considerably mad with Mick. More and more so in the last couple of years with the Stones because it seemed to me that he didn't consider the feelings of the rest of the band."

"I'm not talking about myself particularly, because I've known Mick really well. I can live with that, but he became increasingly more arrogant and dictatorial to the point when he began spending the band's money on movies

and stages without even telling anybody and it would inevitably fall to me to have to point it out."

"I'm just putting it down to male menopause, man, hoping it comes out the other end. To me it's stupid to throw 25 years of working together in a unit down the drain for some petty vanity. So the best thing probably at the moment is that we cool off and don't carry on bickering. I could do the guy some damage and end up in jail and I don't wanna do that. He's safer at the moment."

Objections

"Things got really bad during 'Dirty Work.' With the pressure of the work and the frustration, not being able to talk to my oldest friend and not getting an answer out of him, except a sort of a weird power struggle. I could well, in a moment of rage, have done the boy some injury. So in a way this is like a cooling off period. You lean on the ropes for a minute."

Richards said he had no objections to reuniting the Stones. "But I wouldn't do it just for the bread or to put the Stones together on a phony basis. It's not just Mick and I, it would have to come together in a way that we all could feel comfortable with to resolve all this."

"Time is the one ingredient that maybe can do it. After 25 years on each other's back, maybe a couple of years off ain't so bad. After all, it's about the only remedy left that I could think of, because it was getting sticky between Mick and me. So let's try time, a couple of years off. Because if anybody can pull it back together it will be the Stones."

Richards had heard that Jagger had postponed or cancelled his solo tour plans, but bristled at the idea that the Stones might reunite because of that. "First off, he's gotta talk to me," he said. "He decided to call it quits. Just because what he planned to put together didn't

go quite the way he expected it to go, suddenly he decides that he needs the Stones again. That to me is not the basis of a reasonable reunion. There has to be something a little more."

"He's saying I've put the Stones on ice, we have to get back together. OK, make it happen baby. I love the guy and that's why I can get very tough about it, because when you can't talk to the guy you've known since you were 4 years old, it's been 39 years now, coming on 40 that I've known that guy. And when he decides that he doesn't wanna know you, you're out in the cold, and when he decides he needs you, he starts to make little whimpering noises in the press."

I need something more solid to work on than that. We carry on this relationship now in the press. Mick says something and I wake up the next morning and I've got the reporters outside my front door saying Mick said this, Mick said that. And I try and just bite my tongue but of course words escape now and again. I don't wanna dissect this and carry on a sort of a long distance conversation with Mick through the public media, so (he leans into the microphone) why don't you call me, you (bleep)?

Richards is well aware that the Stones are under contract to come up with more albums. "As far as I know we're still committed to make more records," he said. "I personally would lay a lot of the Stones' current noncommunication and this current break at the doorstep of CBS and (division President Walter) Yetnikoff in particular."

"He thought Mick Jagger was the Rolling Stones and he encouraged and goaded him up, led him to believe that's really all that counted. I don't think that was good for Mick to hear at the time because that's what he wanted to believe. As far as I'm concerned if you want to say who broke up the Rolling Stones at this particular point in time, I'd say CBS. It's fairly obvious when you think about it. Why sign a band for 26 million bucks and then steam straight away into breaking them up?"

Pet Shop Boys top UK charts

LONDON, (UPI): The top 20 record singles in Britain for the holiday period ending Jan. 2, 1988 as compiled by New Musical Express:

1. Always On My Mind — Pet Shop Boys.
2. When I Fall In Love — Rick Astley.
3. Love Letters — Alison Moyet.
4. The Way You Make Me Feel — Michael Jackson.
5. Fairytale of New York — The Pogues.
6. China In My Hand — T'pau.
7. Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree — Mel Smith & Kim Wilde.
8. Look Of Love — Madonna.
9. What Do You Want To... — Shakin' Stevens.
10. Who Found Who — Jelly/Bean/Ellisa Fiorello.
11. Heaven Is A Place On Earth — Belinda Carlisle.
12. When I Fall In Love — Nat King Cole.
13. Every Time We Say Goodbye — Simply Red.
14. Letter From America — The Proclaimers.
15. Criticise — Alexander O'Neal.
16. Touched By The Hand Of God — New Order.
17. Children Say — Level 42.
18. Turn Back The Clock — Johnny Hates Jazz.

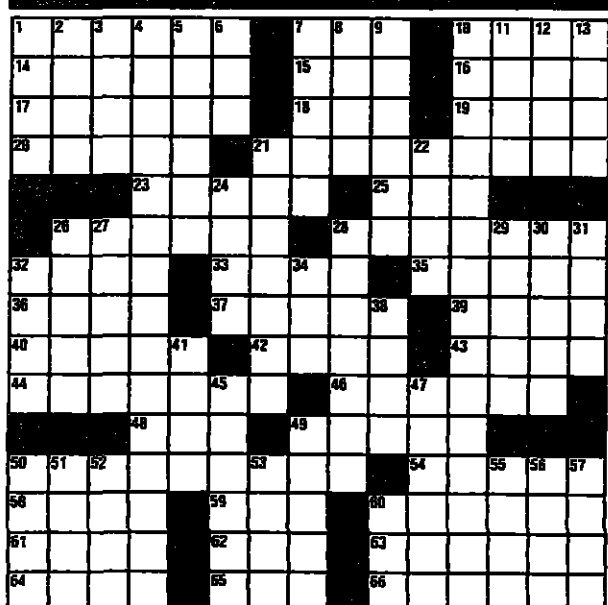


Michael Jackson: high on the charts
19. Once Upon A Long Ago — Paul McCartney.
20. Got My Mind Set On You — George Harrison.



Pet Shop Boys: No. 1 in UK

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Look askance
 - 7 Put up groceries
 - 10 Leaf part
 - 14 Expulsion
 - 15 Firenze hour
 - 16 Give the go-ahead
 - 17 Nap
 - 18 Sapphire, e.g.
 - 19 Drai follower
 - 20 Winfrey of TV
 - 21 Onshore wind
 - 23 Odette's latecomer?
 - 25 Reddy's "Woman"
 - 26 Actress Dolores
 - 28 Certifies
 - 32 Timbuktu's location
 - 33 Start of Clement Moore's poem
 - 35 — plexus
 - 36 — go brag
 - 37 Clara or Cruz
 - 39 Drive away
 - 40 Laugh
 - 42 "The Ballad of Reading"
 - 43 A Turner
 - 44 Show zeal
 - 46 Harbor ill will
 - 48 First female
 - 49 Religious depiction
 - 50 Rabelais giant
 - 54 Turn aside
 - 58 On the briny
 - 59 Moray
 - 60 Quake
 - 61 Sting
 - 62 Beret
 - 63 Fine fur
 - 64 Correspondent
 - 65 One of the Little Women
 - 66 Pestilential fly
- DOWN**
- 1 Average
 - 2 Witty crack
 - 3 Utility customer
 - 4 Philosophical
 - 5 Beneath
 - 6 Musical syllable
 - 7 One over par
 - 8 District
 - 9 Move for Karpov
 - 10 Metodic ultimatum
 - 11 Steinbeck creation
 - 12 Folksinger Joan
 - 13 Bronte heroine
 - 21 Goods packed away
 - 22 Charlie Brown's expletive
 - 24 Is appropriate
 - 26 Singer Bobby
 - 27 "Silas Marner" author
 - 28 Town named for John Jacob
 - 29 "McSorley's Bar" artist
 - 30 Mock
 - 31 Madrid mile
 - 32 Nothing more than
 - 34 Miscellany
 - 38 Downwind
 - 41 Fiji capital
 - 45 One of the Finger Lakes
 - 47 Belle and Bart
 - 49 Soft
 - 50 Puff and blow
 - 51 Wan
 - 52 Concrete
 - 53 Lions, Tigers or Bears
 - 55 Discharge
 - 56 Howard and Darling
 - 57 Family or shoe
 - 60 Asian holiday

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

STES MARTIN PASS
LASH IRENE ANTI
ALSO LONGWINDED
PEERLESS STONE
TIRE MEL ROD
BASES SORES
HALTS SHORTHAND
ASTO SPUDS OLEO
SHORTCUTS GREAT
YEARS MATER
SAPERS GALL
ALIEN DETAINED
LONGSTREET VILE
ONTO REESE ELISE
NEIS ADDER DEAR

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
POINT THE RIGHT WAY

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 9 8
♥ K 6 4
♦ A 5 4 2
♣ K J 9

WEST
♠ 5
♥ J 10 9 5 3
♦ 9 7 3
♣ 10 8 7 2

EAST
♠ K 6 3
♥ A Q 7
♦ K Q 10 8
♣ Q 6 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 7 4 2
♥ 8 2
♦ J 6
♣ A 5 4

The bidding:

East South West North
1 NT 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♠

A priori, the chances of a finesse succeeding are one in two. But if it can be proved that a particular player cannot hold the key card, those odds change to zero. That's the time to look for another line.

We would have preferred a bid of two no trump by North—as the cards lie, three no trump would have been an easy contract to land. South's decision to bid game is something of a stretch; it would

have been better had his hand contained a singleton.

West led the jack of hearts, and the defenders took two tricks in the suit before continuing with a third round for declarer to ruff. A diamond to the ace provided the entry to run the ten of spades, and when that won declarer continued with the nine. That, too, was allowed to hold the trick.

A thoughtless declarer now would pick up the king of trumps and then rely on the club finesse for his contract. However, South realized that he and dummy had a combined 23 points and West had shown up with the jack of hearts. Therefore, East had to have every missing high card for his one no trump opening bid, which meant the club finesse could not win. The only chance was a "backward finesse."

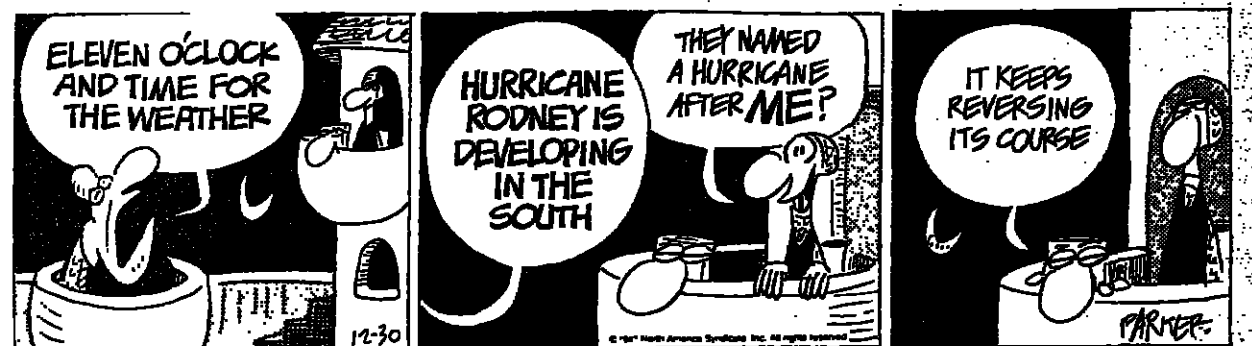
Leaving the king of trumps outstanding, declarer led the jack of clubs from the table. East's queen was captured by the ace, and the last trump was drawn. All that remained to be done was to lead a club and finesse the nine. When that held the contract was home. Declarer had swapped a finesse that was a sure loser for one that stood a chance of success.



"How d'you expect me to remember your birthday? I was only a year old."

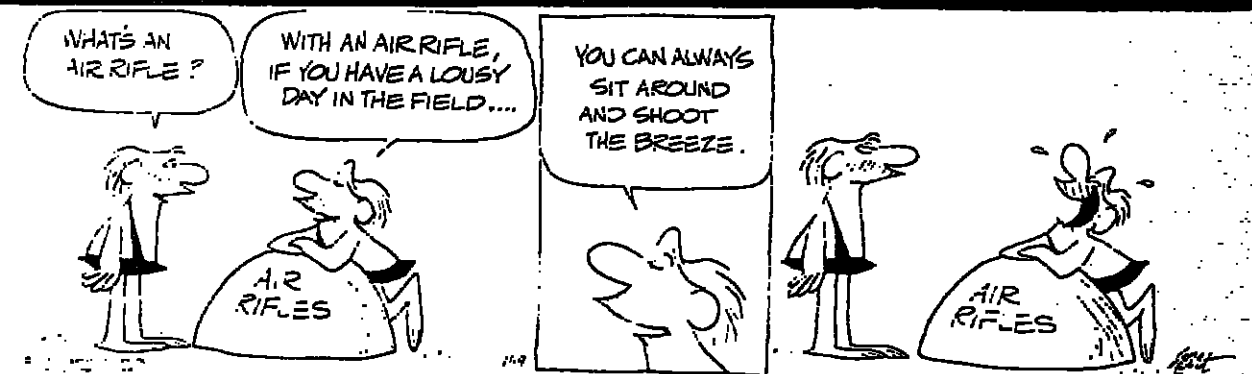
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 21 - April 18)

You will be rather better able to make up your mind. You should hold your head high. Have a bit more faith in yourself and others. Be more optimistic.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You should be a little less willing to believe everything is as you would like. Try to be a little more tolerant towards a rather insufferable person.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

Something you had hoped would happen will actually take place. You should make sure you do not give away a secret. You should also avoid taking too much for granted just now. Be considerate.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You would do well to discuss matters more fully with your partner. You will be able to right a wrong and should do so. Allow yourself enough room for manoeuvre. Be cordial.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You should try to be a little more approachable. The more goodwill you are able to bring to bear the better. Make sure your health does not suffer. Be sensible.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You should make sure others understand what is on your mind. Try not to harbour ill-will and do your best to overcome resentments. Have a good laugh but not at other people's expense. Be considerate.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You have a need to take better care of your health. If you are learning then you must preserve. Make sure you give credit where it is due. Be attentive.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You are rather too liable just to let things happen. You should rely more on charm and persuasion than on forcefulness. Mistakes are better avoided than corrected. Be tactful.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will meet someone much to your liking. However you should not be too forthcoming until you are better acquainted. Avoid allowing litter to accumulate. Be prompt.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You will be able to resolve a personal conflict and should do so. Avoid relying on first impressions. Make sure you look where you are going. Be resilient.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will be able to do something a little more positive. You should avoid doing anything you feel is wrong. Make sure you do no less than your fair share of domestic chores. Be magnanimous.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

Once you have made up your mind on a change make it, even if not all at once. You should keep calm in the face of rather perturbing circumstances.

CINE ROUND-UP FROM BOMBAY

by Firoze Rangoonwalla

Special to the Arab Times

Songs and sobs, action and thrills... even a few art films

Hindi cinema promises variety in '88

IT'S time to say ring out the old, ring in the new, again. With 1987 changing to 1988, cinegoers look up with hope about what is in store for them in the coming twelve months. And they will not be disappointed, as the Hindi film industry has lined up quite a wide variety of films, of various shapes, sizes and types.

There are big-budget multi-star opuses, spectaculars shot on unusual locations, action films with death-defying stunts, entertainers with a lot of nonsense, tear-jerkers with heart-breaking sentimentality, romances with songs and sobs, spy and dacoit dramas with thrills and a few art films. One surprising aspect is that all these films belong to the so-called "social" genre, either set in contemporary times or of a specified period. But the other types like mythologicals, historicals, classical legends and even full length comedies have nearly been wiped out.

Among the films meant for release at the beginning of the year itself are those which were under preparation for quite some time. The much-disputed Shahenshah, an object of curiosity and controversy is the star attraction. It's results will set norms, which the industry will have to follow for a long time. Another long-postponed magnum opus is Joshiy which director Shekhar Kapoor gave up and which has been completed by producer Sibte Hasan Rizvi. It has been sold out to all distributors but the audience response to its final shape will also set some definite trends.

Sentimental films coming up are Falak and Mere Baad with Raakhi and Rukhsat which Simi has given up as director after being attached to it for five years. This has also been taken over by Producer Philip Cherian. Dada Khondke's Aage Ki Soch has been sold only for Bombay and a solo release can lead to an explosion of video cassettes all over India. The same is true of the fastest-produced film Maalamal.



The big spectacle for '88 is Batwara with Vinod Khanna (L), Asha Parekh and Poonam Dhillon.

light entertainer about how to blow up money. Jungle Ki Beti with Salma Agha as a lady Tarzan will also come up soon. And Kishore Kumar's swan song Mamta Ki Chhaon Mein is all ready but lying without any buyers.

Release

The expected block-busters to follow during the year are all sprinkled with stars and stunts. J P Dutta's Batwara has been shot in the Rajasthan deserts and ancient mansions, being a period piece. Manmohan Desai's Ganga Jamuna Saraswati banks upon its star cast and spectacle of sets and dances. His son's Toofan also with Amitabh, is shaped like a stunt movie. As the tall star is keen on completing Nadiadwala's small film Sach with Shabana, Aalishan with his three heroines may be pushed to 1989. Manmohan may also switch-over to the quickie Goondaraj which he has asked N. Chandra to direct. Feroz Khan will do a quickie Dayawan for the first time in his life. It is based on the exciting life of a real smuggler, being played by Vinod Khanna.

N. Chandra will release his own production Tezaab cast in the mould of Ankush except with a bigger cast. Ketan Mehta and Gul Anand may finish off Hero Hiralal for mid-year release, as it is made on a tight plan. It will introduce a new heroine Sanjana Kapoor opposite Naseeruddin. Gulzar may also finish Lekin for Lata Mangeshkar, provided Dimple and Vinod Khanna give dates. These two stars will also decide the fate of Muzaffar Ali's Habba Khatoon, which will be lucky if it gets completed by the winter of 1988.

From the art films of the N.F.D.C. type, Ramesh Talwar's Tees Nani Mera Nam is a poor comedy that may end up only on TV. A new kind of experience could be had from Vijaya Mehta's Pestonjee on the life of the Parsi minority community. Others like Gautam Ghose's Mahayatra with Shatrughan Sinha may hit the international festival circuit, while Aparna Sen's Sati, also based on the same topic remains stranded at present. Aruna Raje has done a star-

studded art film called Rihayee having Vinod Khanna.

Will Shashi Kapoor complete his own directed Indo-Soviet co-pro. Ajooba or Black Prince, with Amitabh, Rishi Kapoor, Amrish Puri and Dimple as the heroine? With Soviet discipline and planning as well as bulk shooting in USSR, perhaps it may be wrapped up this year. The completion problem of many big films hangs in the balance only because of stars and the excessive number of films they have signed. Cinegoers will see only those films, which the stars favour for their image and in which they sense a box-office hit.

Flow

A steady flow of finance also plays its own role. So the established banners and directors will complete and release their films. F C Mehra's Aakhri Adalat directed by son Rajeev has two pairs Vinod and Dimple, Jackie and Sonam. The other brother Umesh Mehra is completing Gura with Mithun, Sri Devi and Vardi with Sunny, Jackie, Kimi, Shibu

Mitra's Aakhri Ghulam has Mithun and Sonam. J Om Prakash's Agnee has Mithun and Amrita, Chunky and Mandakini. Tony's Abhimanyu has Anil Kapoor, Poonam, Kimi. Chandra Barot's Boss has Vinod Khanna and Jaya Prada. Raj Sippy's Mahadev has Vinod, Meenakshi, Raj Babbar and Sonu Walia. All these are themes of the revenge-action types.

The new year will see the spectacular Daata of Sultan Ahmed, who is often compared to the late K Asif the movie Mughale-Azum. Its only handicap is retired heroine Padmini Kolhapure opposite Mithun.

Yash Chopra's Vijay is another costly risky venture, being based on a sentimental theme and having the drawbacks of Rajesh Khanna's and Hema Malini's fading careers. On its release, Yash will quickly go into Chandni with Sri Devi, Vinod and Rishi. Tahir Husain's Hamara Khandaan and brother Nasir Husain's Qayamat se Qayamat Tak will also come up with a mixture of old and new stars. Raj Khosla is the only veteran making a film with a Muslim backdrop... the romance Naqab with Rishi and Farha.

Some fading stars cum producers are also trying their level best to make a come-back in 1988. After the debacle of Kalyug Aur Ramayan Manoj Kumar is hoping to shine with Clerk and Deshwasi. Hema Malini is acting in a few films, yet she has been bitten by the production bug and is promoting Awargi as a commercial entertainer and Marg directed by Mahesh Bhatt, as an off-beat venture about a female ascetic. She has given herself roles to suit her age. Rajesh Khanna is also pondering on starting his own big film. And of course, the biggest suspense of the year hangs on the last big gamble of Dev Anand: Sachche Ka Bolbala. People are also awaiting Aag Ka Dariya starring Dilip Kumar with Rekha. Among the long-distance runners, there are Ramesh Sippy's Zameen, Gulshan Rai's Tridev, Sattee Shourie's Fari-shay, Padmini Kolhapure's own production Daav Pech, Rahul Rawail's Mast Qalandar, Subhash Ghai's Ram Lakhan, Sanjay Khan's Sarzameen and Sawan Kumar's Souten ki Beti with Rekha, Jaya Prada and now Jeetendra having replaced Rajesh Khanna. There are some dacoit dramas like "Kaali Ganga" and "Kasam Suhag ki," romantic musicals like "Azma Kar Dekho" and "Pyar



Maalamal with Naseeruddin Shah (R) and Satish Shah promises to be entertaining.



Mithun (R) and Sri Devi star in Gura.

Mohabbat," domestic dramas like "Aur Teri Yahti Kahani" or "Bade Ghar ki Beti," mystery and horror tales like "Bees Saal Baad" or films with purposeful "twists" like "Dulhan Aur Dabeh" and "Hum Dabeh Layee Hain."

There are also sex-oriented films like "Sex Vigyan" "Jawani ki Lahren" "Raati ke Gunah," and "Jawani ke Gunah." And a film "Kahani Roop Kanwar Ki" is also planned on the ghastly Sati incident that took place near Jaipur.

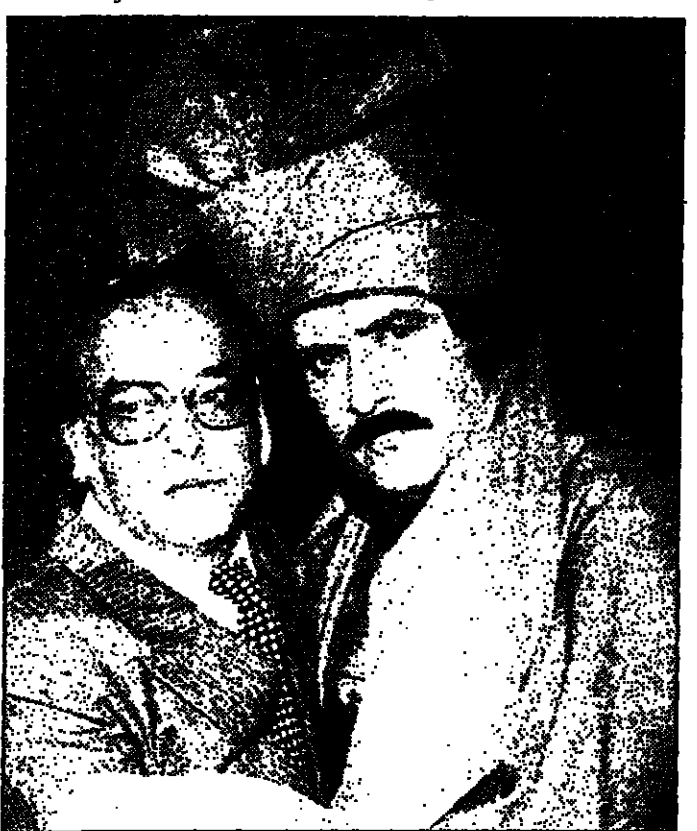
All in all, there are more than 300 Hindi films on the floors in various stages of production and an astounding number of 190 films completed but not released. The film people more than the cinegoers look up to 1988 to bring them some relief, if not total joy.



The only "Muslim social" for '88. Naqab with Farha (L) and Rishi Kapoor.



Love story: Govinda (L) and Mandakini will be seen in Pyar Mohabbat.



Manoj Kumar (R) rises again in Deshwasi pictured above with Mahesh Bhatt.



A star cast for Ganga Jamuna Saraswati with Amitabh Bachchan, Mithun and Nirupa Roy.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

COMPLETE ANNUAL PHYSICAL USUALLY NOT NECESSARY

QUESTION: Is a regular health exam worth the cost and trouble of getting it done?

ANSWER: Yes and no. You don't need the complete annual physical anymore, every third year will do for most people younger than 50, but certain medical tests should be done more frequently than that for some people.

It used to be widely recommended that everyone have a complete physical, with a general examination and blood tests, every year to make sure they were in tip-top health. But, as medical costs soared in the 1970s, this idea came under fire as both a waste of time and money, especially for younger individuals. Some tests and screening procedures simply don't need to be done every year, if a person is basically healthy.

The primary purpose of a health exam is to catch any disease that is present in its earliest stage. The exam must in itself be safe and effective. It is no use to run routine tests for uncommon diseases or tests that are not very accurate. If screening every third year is just as effective as screening annually, there's no good excuse for doing it more frequently.

The new system of physicals calls for selective tests for selected diseases at selected intervals. In other words, a general physical

exam, including exams for thyroid, testicular, prostate, ovarian, lymph node and skin cancer, can be done every third year until age 40 or so. Pap smears for women need to be done for two consecutive years to get a baseline reading, then every third year. A baseline mammogram for breast cancer should be done between age 35 and 40 and then annually after age 50. Women and men older than 50 should have yearly tests for colon cancer, including digital rectal exams and stool guaiac tests. After age 50, sigmoidoscopy should be done every three to five years.

Certain procedures can be individualized. Blood tests for cholesterol, triglycerides and blood lipids can be done annually if they are needed. Tests for hearing and visual acuity should be done only if needed. Immunizations for diphtheria/tetanus (needed every 10 years), flu (annually after age 65) and pneumonia (once after age 65), are a part of checkups.

The only medical test that needs to be done yearly for everyone is a measurement of blood pressure.

Just because these tests are being done less often doesn't mean that you should be any less motivated about your own health care. The fact is that you really can save some

money without increasing your risks, if you assume some of the responsibility for your own wellness and follow the rules of healthy living. And if you are not too sure about those principles, keep reading, and I'll try to make you both healthier and wiser.

ACROSS MY DESK: There is no doubt that the problems caused by osteoporosis are valid concerns to women as they pass the age of menopause and face the possibility of compression fractures of the spine that may result from this condition. While diet, calcium supplements and estrogen therapy all may be a part of the treatment, so is exercise according to a study at the University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey. Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, by Dr Gloria Bachmann, associate professor of obstetrics/gynecology reports that women taking part in a 13-week supervised exercise programme, which included aerobic and flexibility exercises, improved far more in measurable areas than a control group that merely continued their previous exercise habits. Such a programme, as part of a complete therapy, can help reduce the hot flashes and depression that may accompany the menopause.

1987 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES.

ANDY CAPP

By Smith



BUSINESS & FINANCE

UAE insurers threaten break with London underwriters

DUBAI, Jan 1. (Reuters): Insurers on the frontline of the Gulf shipping war are threatening to break with London underwriters over skyrocketing premiums.

Ibrahim Hannoun, chairman of the 40-member (UAE) Insurance Association, said local companies would take their business elsewhere if London ignored their plea to reverse a new hike in war risk premiums on non-oil cargo ships.

London underwriters more than doubled the war risk premium for southern Gulf ports on December 23. It jumped to 0.75 per cent from 0.375 per cent for hulls and 0.30 cargoes.

Decision
"If they stick to their decision," there will be chaos in the market," he told Reuters. "Many companies called me to say they were already losing so much business at the previous levels they cannot adopt the new rates."

Iran and Iraq have hit 18 ships in the last two weeks, just two of them cargo vessels. They were a Korean ship carrying timber and a Maldivian-clagged vessel loaded with sulphur.

Hannoun said his association had asked the Institute of London Underwriters (ILU) for a two-tier system with separate premiums for oil and non-oil cargoes ships because of the different risks they face in the Gulf. "We don't believe this particular rise is justified for cargo ships because so few are being hit," he said. "If it is maintained, insurance companies must seek other underwriters."

France was the most likely to benefit from any change because it already had a two-tier system and the United States was another possible alternative to London, he said.

Texaco to take on new debt to settle with Pennzoil

NEW YORK, Jan 1. (Reuters): Texaco Inc announced yesterday it would borrow \$3.4 billion and use \$2.2 billion of cash reserves to pay for settlement of its lawsuit with Pennzoil Co. and eventually emerge from bankruptcy.

Texaco's plans were disclosed in a statement filed as part of its bankruptcy proceedings. If the Bankruptcy Court and shareholders approve, Texaco should be able to emerge from bankruptcy by spring, it said.

The report was important because it revealed how Texaco, the nation's eighth largest industrial company and third largest US oil company, plans to raise enough money to put the financial nightmare behind it caused by the legal dispute with Pennzoil.

Projections

The financial statement also contained five-year projections which called for Texaco to double its profits to over \$1 billion a year early in the next decade. The company also forecast higher oil prices by 1992.

The statement ended speculation about how Texaco would pay Pennzoil \$3 billion to settle a \$10.3 billion lawsuit. Pennzoil sued Texaco for interfering with Pennzoil's plan to acquire a stake in Getty Oil Co.

The November 1985 jury award was the largest in US history. The verdict was being appealed when both sides signed the settlement agreement on December 19.

Some oil industry analysts had expected Texaco to sell assets, including its Texaco Canada Inc. subsidiary, to raise the money.

Brazilian inflation soars to record

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 1. (Reuters): Brazil's inflation rate soared to a record 365.96 per cent in 1987, according to figures released yesterday, easily beating the previous high of 233 per cent of 1985 and more than six times last year's 58.60 per cent.

Prices exploded this year in Brazil, the developing world's biggest debtor, after the collapse of a price freeze which had artificially contained rises during most of 1986. In May, consumer prices rose a monthly record 23 per cent.

Yesterday's figures show the biggest rises this year were 459 per cent in the cost of housing and 401 per cent in the cost of health and personal care.

In December, the consumer price index rose 14.14 per cent against 7.27 per cent in the same month of 1986.

Economy registers first growth for three years

Saudis to issue bonds to finance budget deficit

BAHRAIN, Jan 1. (Reuters): Saudi Arabia, in a shift of policy breaking a 25-year-old taboo on borrowing, has decided to issue government bonds to finance its budget deficit.

Gulf-based economists said the move, announced by King Fahd in a budget address on Wednesday, was dictated by the harsh economic reality of weak oil revenues and a realisation that reserves could not bankroll the deficit indefinitely.

"The question has to be why Saudi Arabia did not borrow earlier," said one. "But there was a psychological block."

Drive
Economists said the 1988 budget marked a fresh drive to cut a burgeoning deficit which between 1983 and the end of 1987 swallowed up over \$40 billion of reserves built up during Saudi Arabia's oil boom days.

That leaves an estimated \$70 billion although only about half is in "liquid" form and readily accessible.

The government will issue domestic bonds worth up to 30

billion riyals (\$8 billion) to help finance the projected deficit of \$5.9 billion riyals (\$9.6 billion).

That will considerably reduce the strain on dwindling reserves next year.

The bonds are designed to tap a huge pool of domestic liquidity and savings, but economists are now asking whether Saudi Arabia is just one step away from seeking foreign loans.

By 1988 international banks were refusing to extend credit to Saudi Arabia, but the following four years saw a determined campaign to bring spending under control. By 1992 the government had cleared its debts.

Since then the kingdom has steadfastly refused to borrow, preferring to finance budget deficits that began to emerge in 1983 by drawing on reserves and often paying for military hardware — most recently Tornado jets — through oil barter.

In addition to the bitter experience of the 1950s, economists cite other reasons why the kingdom has fought shy of borrowing, domestically or on

foreign markets.

Saudi Arabia's private sector, with no such inhibitions about borrowing, drew heavily on foreign loans during the oil bonanza of the late 1970s and early 1980s only to find they could not repay when oil revenues fell and recession set in.

The kingdom's 11 commercial banks, seeing profits eaten up by loan loss provisions, have entered a series of debt rescheduling which at times have resulted in bad publicity in the foreign press for some Saudi private sector firms.

Economists said problems surrounding Saudi Arabia's private sector debt remained a powerful internal argument against the kingdom incurring sovereign debt on foreign capital markets.

Peaked
And until about four years ago there was no need. Saudi Arabia's oil earnings peaked at \$101.8 billion in 1981, but this year will be down to an estimated \$21 billion.

Bankers in the kingdom were

not entirely surprised by the need to issue government bonds and rumours had swept money markets in the past few days.

"It is a very constructive move and very sensible," said one senior trader.

Apart from being dictated by the need to fund deficits, it also fits into Saudi Arabia's policy of liberalising its financial system and a Gulf-wide move to develop capital markets, economists said.

Bahrain started the ball rolling by issuing short-term treasury bills in December 1986, followed by Oman in June this year and Kuwait at the end of November.

Economists said there were signs Saudi Arabia's financial planners were listening to bankers within the kingdom who urged measures to mop up excess money market liquidity that had driven rial interest rates down.

Some bankers expect various maturities from three to 10 years, with the bonds almost certainly offered at a deep discount to avoid the thorny problems of interest payments.

A model for that would be existing short-term money market instruments known as bankers security deposit accounts, not considered by bankers as primarily a fund-raising tool.

If the kingdom does take up 30 billion riyals (\$8 billion) from the market — a sum bankers say is readily available — liquidity would tighten considerably.

Riyal interbank rates began rising yesterday in the wake of the news, narrowing the gap to interest levels in the United States. That in turn would help stem capital flowing out of Saudi Arabia in search of higher interest rates.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's non-oil economy grew in 1987 for the first time in three years and its trade surplus more than tripled, the Ministry of Finance and National Economy said.

Gross domestic product, not taking into account the oil sector, rose by an inflation-adjusted 0.8 per cent in 1987 after falling 2.3 per cent in 1986 and 5.7 per cent in 1985.

China faces tough choices as reforms face opposition

BEIJING, Jan 1. (Reuters): China's leaders face some tough decisions in 1988 if they are to push through urgently needed economic changes in the face of widespread opposition.

The blueprint seems clear — to overhaul an irrational system for pricing goods, pass a bankruptcy law, curb runaway money and credit supply and cut inflation and soaring demand.

It is easier said than done. City dwellers are angry at price increases and factories fear closure and unemployment for their workers after decades of living off subsidies and interest-free bank loans.

Reforms

"Our reforms are moving ahead," said Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang in late December. "We are feeling our way on the stones to cross the river... we seek truth from practice... nothing is sacred."

The toughest nettle to grasp is to rationalise a distorted price system, so that prices reflect real production costs and enable firms to compete on an equal basis.

This will mean price rises. Retail prices rose eight per cent in 1987, causing a drop in real income for 40 per cent of city families and provoking widespread discontent which forced Beijing to ration pork rather than permit a price increase.

"Price reform could take longer than we originally envisaged," said Zhao.

"We must positively but cautiously proceed with price reform, within levels acceptable to the country, firms and individuals," said the official Outlook magazine in December.

"But price stability does not mean freezing prices stone dead."

Another hot potato is whether to wind up bankrupt firms which consume billions of yuan (dollars) a year in state subsidies and unrepaid bank loans.

"In 1988 we will resolutely stop giving loans to bad firms," industrial and commercial bank deputy head Huang Yujun told a meeting of his managers in late December.

He told them to improve their assessment of whether clients were efficient and well-managed, could sell their products, and could repay loans.

A Chinese journalist said there was great opposition in the party to enforcing bankruptcy as it raised the prospect of unemployment and possible social disorder and the ideological question of whether bankruptcy is compatible with socialism.

Loans
Unrepaid bank loans are among the reasons why the Central Bank has issued too much money since 1984, fuelling inflation.

Central Bank president Chen Muhua told managers the main task of banks next year was to tightly control credit and money issue and make better use of existing funds, to ensure the econ-

omy continued to grow steadily.

A Western banker foresaw danger if China did not control its ballooning money and credit supply.

"China could do what many European countries have done — decide that industries like coal and steel are not profit-making and support them out of public funds," he said.

"But it should not do what it is doing now — keep them going out of bank credit which is a major reason why it (bank credit) is soaring."

Profitable

"On the other hand, prices of energy, coal and steel are too low. It is impossible for these industries to be profitable at the present, unrealistic price levels," he said. "But it is easier to make price reforms at times when there is no inflation."

A Western diplomat said Beijing was determined to avoid reform mistakes made by Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia.

"It (China) watches closely reforms in East Europe. It wants to avoid their levels of foreign debt and inflation. But the reforms cannot stop. Only by making prices more rational can (China) raise productivity," he said.

Boosting productivity, a priority in 1988, would ease an imbalance between supply and demand which is pushing up prices, according to State Planning Commission Vice Minister Liu Suimin.

Orders for manufactured goods slow in November

WASHINGTON, Jan 1. (Reuters): Orders for manufactured goods rose only 0.1 per cent in November, the US Commerce Department reported yesterday, in another sign the October stock market crash has begun to sap the economy's strength.

The slight orders rise last month, equivalent to \$271 million of additional business, came after a relatively healthy 1.3 per cent or \$2.7 billion order increase in October.

Total new orders were \$209.66 billion in November compared with \$209.39 billion in October.

Reinforces

"This reinforces the expectation that we're going to see production softening significantly in the first half of next year," said Laurence Meyer, president of Laurence Meyer and Associates in St. Louis, Mo.

He said the report was particularly significant coming a day after the Commerce Department said its key index of leading economic indicators, a harbinger of future economic activity, suffered its steepest drop during November in 3-1/2 years, falling 1.7 per cent.

It was the first fall in the broad-based leading indicators report after nine straight monthly rises. "We're seeing a significant change in the momentum of these series, with October the breaking point," Meyer said. "They were rising until October but now have begun to flatten out or decline."

"They're adding to the evidence that there is a slacken-

ing in the momentum of the economy."

Most of the fall in leading indicators was attributed to the stock market's decline since the October 19 Black Monday, when the Dow Jones industrial average fell 508 points and cost consumers and companies billions of dollars in lost wealth.

The order weakness in November was concentrated among industries that produce durables, generally considered goods that have a useful life of three years or more like electrical machinery or cars.

Durables orders fell 0.4 per cent last month to a total \$110.65 billion after rising 1.5 per cent in October. A decline in orders for these goods can signal reluctance to invest in new production equipment.

"This report is another caution flag about the possibility of a sharp slowdown in economic growth, maybe even negative growth, in the first half of next year," said Jerry Jasinski, chief economist for the National Association of Manufacturers.

Recession

Jasinski said he was not forecasting a business recession, but expressed concern capital investment spending might weaken and harm progress in lowering the United States' huge trade imbalance with the rest of the world.

Non-defence capital spending, which roughly measures businesses' investments in fixed production equipment, fell 2.4 per cent in November to \$29.7 billion after a 2.2 per cent October rise.

Turkey budget deficit falls

ANKARA, Jan 1. (Reuters): Turkey announced a sharp fall in its budget deficit today while parliament approved a government spending increase which bankers said was intended to boost growth.

The 1988 first quarter budget provided for expenditure of 5,875 billion lira (\$5.8 billion), a 57 per cent rise on the 1987 average.

"There is no austerity budget," said one foreign banker in Istanbul, Turkey's commercial centre.

Finance and Customs Minister Ahmed Kurbetci Alp-tomoc told parliament the budget deficit fell to 893 billion lira (\$890 million) in the first 11 months of 1987.

The deficit for the first 10 months was 1,118 billion lira (\$1.1 billion), compared with a target for the year of 931 billion lira (\$930 million). The 1987 spending target was 11,050 billion lira (\$11 billion).

Bankers said the sharp cut in the deficit from October to November could be accounted for by Turkey's tax system, under which the bulk of income tax is collected in the last months of the year.

They also said the spending increase in the first-quarter budget indicated that Prime Minister Turgut Ozal had postponed an expected attack on inflation and would continue growth-oriented policies.

Ozal told a meeting of his ruling Motherland Party: "It is impossible to bring inflation down to very low levels as in advanced countries... the country is still growing very fast."

World Business Summary

US and Canada to sign historic trade accord

OTTAWA, Jan 1. (Kuna): As US President Reagan and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney prepare to sign a historic free trade agreement on Saturday, a new poll shows growing support for the concept among Canadians. Support for free trade went up from 49 to 57 per cent of all Canadians, while opposition went up from 32 to 43 per cent. That is good news to Prime Minister Mulroney, who staked his personal reputation as well as his leadership on the highly-controversial issue of the free exchange of goods and services between the two countries. The poll is surprising because it shows that support for free trade is up even in the city of Toronto (15 points to 57 per cent), thought to be centre of anti-free trade sentiment in Canada.

The poll, conducted at a private agency for the Globe and Mail, Canada's national newspaper, also points out that while support for free trade as a general concept is higher than ever, Canadians continue to argue fiercely over the specific deal that Mulroney and Reagan will sign tomorrow. Forty per cent approve of the agreement and 39 per cent oppose it, while the rest are undecided. Taken as a whole, the figures mean that Prime Minister Mulroney has understood the political thinking of the voters. If the necessary readjustment of Canadian industry remains manageable, the undecided will eventually swing in favour of free trade because they like the idea in principle. But after the deal is signed, it still has to be approved by the American Congress, which is on a fiercely protectionist mood, and by the Canadian parliament, where an opposition-dominated Senate could refuse to ratify it and thus provoke an early election in Canada sometime next year.

US crude price rise on North Sea oil squeeze

LOS ANGELES, Jan 1. (Reuters): A squeeze in supplies of North Sea Brent, the European benchmark grade of crude oil, gave oil prices in the United States a short-lived boost this week, analysts and traders said yesterday. But concern about over-production by some Opec members was likely to drive prices down during the first week of 1988, they said. "The only thing that's holding it up is the Brent barrel," said Donald Morton, an energy analyst with Prudential Bache Securities Inc. The tightness in Brent supplies was due to one international oil trader who controlled as many as 20 cargoes for January delivery, industry sources said. The Brent squeeze drove the US benchmark grade, West Texas Intermediate, up about 50 cents on Tuesday to \$16.93 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Yesterday, the February WTI futures contract closed 19 cents lower at \$16.70 in this holiday trading.

Brent was quoted by cash traders at about \$17.75 for January delivery. But relatively strong Brent prices will be unable to support the US oil market for long, traders said.

Analysts said US crude oil prices could fall as low as \$16 early next week but there is little potential for gains because traders have been selling on any rally.

A call by Iran for an emergency meeting of Opec's five member monitoring committee had no effect on the market. Such a meeting would do little to support crude oil prices, analysts said, noting that the group's current agreement has done little to rein in production.

But analysts remained cautious about warnings by Indonesia and Saudi Arabia that they would protect their market shares if other members produced more than their quota. Indonesia said on Tuesday that it would not be bound by Opec's latest price and production agreement if other members cheated. Saudi Arabia, Opec's biggest producer, said on Monday it would not sell below official prices unless overproduction by other members seriously threatened its market share.

Bank of Japan staged massive intervention last year

TOKYO, Jan 1. (Reuters): The Bank of Japan bought as much as \$37 billion in 1987 in efforts to prop up the US currency, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun newspaper reported today. The Mainichi Shimbun put the intervention lower, at 32 billion.

A Central Bank spokesman was not available for comment.

On Thursday, the last day of trading in 1987, the dollar reached a post-war low against the yen of 122.00 after falling briefly to an all-time low of 121.85 yen. The Nihon Keizai quoted a Central Bank source as saying: "We have run out of monetary and financial policy strategies to stop the dropping dollar. We now look to new US strategies to support the dollar such as the issuing of Reagan bonds (non-dollar denominated US bonds) and other measures, as well as an all-out Japanese policy of market liberalisation," it quoted the source as saying. The dollar has plummeted some 57 per cent against the Japanese currency since the September 1985 Plaza accord in which the G-5 Group of Five industrialised nations agreed to allow the dollar to fall to correct a growing US trade deficit.

Turkey levies new taxes

ISTANBUL, Jan 1. (Reuters): Turkey imposed new taxes on most goods yesterday to help finance higher government spending planned for early 1988. Value Added Tax (VAT) was introduced for the first time on basic foods at three per cent, while rates on luxury goods went up to 15 from 12 per cent, the Anatolian News Agency reported. Economists said Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, re-elected for a second five-year term last month, needed the money to finance wage increases of 30 to 45 per cent for civil servants also announced yesterday. The wage boosts are part of a 5,875 billion lira (\$5.8 billion) spending budget for the first four months of 1988 approved by parliament on Wednesday. Bankers said the interim budget showed Ozal planned to maintain high economic growth and delay a promised battle with inflation, now over 45 per cent and rising.

Dim prospects for UAE economy

ABU DHABI, Jan 1. (Kuna): The United Arab Emirates economy is closing the year with a growth rate of around six per cent, but prospects for the New Year are less reassuring, UAE Central Bank governor Abdel Malek Al Hamar said yesterday. "At best, economic activity in the New Year will be of a similar magnitude as in 1987," the Dubai-based Khaleej Times quoted Al Hamar as saying in an interview carried by the UAE news agency. Describing the six per cent growth rate in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1987 as "very healthy" compared to other economies of the world, Al Hamar said it was still lower than the 1985 level of 13.7 per cent. He said inflation, presently at four per cent, was likely to go up, while the impact of slower international economic activity will be felt. In another interview with the Abu Dhabi-based daily Al Ittihad, the governor expressed concern about the long-term effects of the world stock market crash, the falling value of the US dollar and the possibility of a further decline in world oil prices.

"Undoubtedly, the stock market crash on Oct 19, 1987... will have its effects that would be reflected in the coming years," the newspaper quoted Al Hamar as saying.

He told Al Ittihad the immediate impact of the so-called Black Monday, was the drop in world oil prices compared with their levels earlier in the year.

"And, since the country's oil revenues are in dollars, the purchasing power of national revenues has declined due to sharp drop in the value of the dollar," he added.

Arco and KIO boost their stakes

LONDON, Jan 1. (AP): Atlantic Richfield Co. said yesterday that it bought additional Britoil Plc shares on the stock market on Tuesday, increasing its stake in the North Sea oil company to 21.12 per cent from 20.4 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Investment Office — the London-based investment vehicle for the Kuwaiti government — disclosed it boosted its stake in British Petroleum Co. Plc to 17.4 per cent as of Tuesday, from 17.1 per cent.

Both Arco and the Kuwait Investment Office were in the market again Wednesday buying additional shares, dealers said.

Britoil, which is based in Glasgow, also is the target of a full, £2.27-billion (\$4.22-billion) takeover bid from BP.

Los Angeles, California-based Arco, which has reached a friendly agreement to ultimately buy a 49.9 per cent stake in Britoil, said it bought 3.43 million extra shares at prices ranging from 432 pence (\$8.04) a share to 435 pence (\$8.09) a share, or a total of about £14.9 million (\$27.7 million).

Stake

On Wednesday, Arco entered the market again and bought a small amount of Britoil shares, said dealers, who didn't specify the number.

Britoil shares were quoted at 437 pence (\$8.13) on the London Stock Exchange on Wednesday afternoon, up 2.5 pence (4.7 cents) from Tuesday.

Arco lifted its stake in Britoil

to 20.4 per cent last week from a previously disclosed 19.25 per cent. Britoil has 504.4 million shares outstanding.

Arco began building its stake in Britoil in mid-December when it bought 7.7 per cent of the company. It proposed increasing its stake to 29.9 per cent through the purchase of shares and then up to 49.9 per cent through a swap of new Britoil shares for Arco assets.

BP's 450 pence (\$8.37) per-share bid faces certain unresolved regulatory obstacles.

Shares

Britain's panel on takeover and mergers, an independent body which oversees acquisitions, has cleared the bid but Britain's treasury has said it will use the government's special

US currency could rise after the holiday season

Battered dollar, stock market stumble

NEW YORK, Jan. 1, (AP): The battered American dollar and the US stock market stumbled into the New Year today wrapped in the gloom of a yearlong decline for the American currency and a startling October plunge for the New York Stock Exchange.

The dollar started 1988 at 40-year lows against the West German mark, Japanese yen, Swiss franc and Dutch guilder. The central banks of Japan, West Germany and Switzerland reportedly bought dollars yesterday, but failed to prevent the dollar's record lows against their currencies.

The dollar also sank yesterday to six-year lows against the British pound, Italian lira and French franc.

The US stock market too finished the worst year since World War I with an 11.27 point slump in the Dow Jones average yesterday, but ended up in a somewhat better shape than the dollar. The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks closed the year 1987 at 1,938.83, still 2.26 per cent above its 1,895.95 level at the end of 1986.

A powerful bull market early in 1987 was enough to counterbalance the record 508 point decline on Black Monday Oct 19 and the ensuing stock market decline.

For the American currency, however, there was no respite in 1987 from a prolonged slide in foreign exchange trading in response to a huge and chronic US foreign trade deficit and an equally huge and chronic US federal budget deficit.

Against other major currencies like the Japanese yen, British pound and the West German mark, the dollar ended the year from 12 per cent to more than 20 per cent lower compared to the beginning of 1987.

Japanese and European cen-

tral banks intervened yesterday to curb the plunge, as they had done at intervals throughout the year, but despite this official support experts viewed the dollar's future performance in 1988 without much optimism.

Some dealers said trading in the year-end holiday week was very thin and that the dollar could rise after the holiday season.

"We should see the real level of the dollar when everyone gets back into the office," said a trader at a US bank in Frankfurt.

Others said a rise in the dollar might hinge on a rise in US interest rates to attract investors from abroad but such a development seemed problematical.

The Washington Post reported yesterday that European finance ministers tried last week to convince Treasury Secretary James A. Baker to pledge an increase in US interest rates if the dollar slips further.

The Post quoted the European officials as saying Baker refused because of fears that higher US interest rates would trigger a recession before the November 1988 presidential election.

In London, share prices tumbled yesterday in light trading as a new decline in the US dollar haunted the stock market's final session of the year.

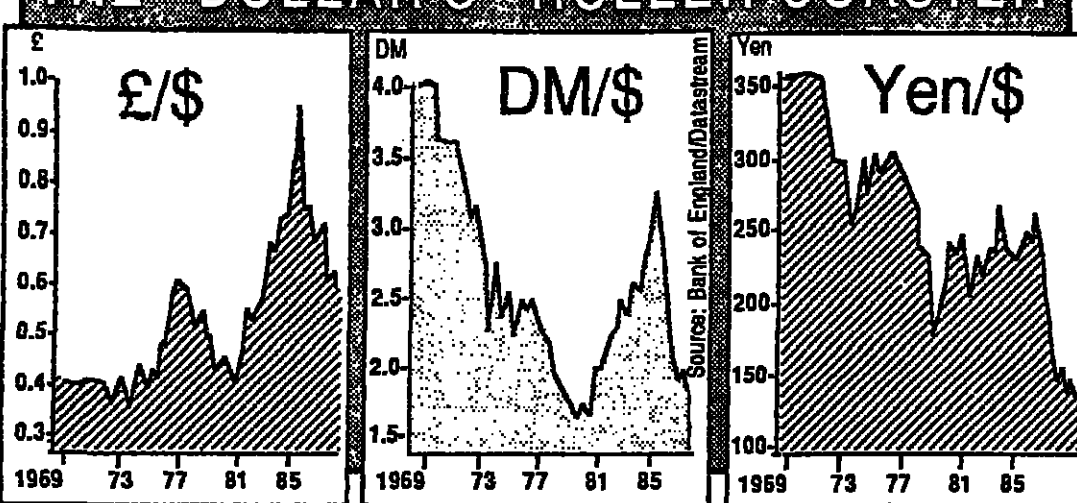
The Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-share index fell 47.1 points to close near the session low at 1,712.7.

The index finished the year up 2 per cent from the Dec 31, 1986 close of 1,679.0, or up 9.4 per cent from the post-October crash low closing level of 1,565.2 on Nov 9.

But it was 29.9 per cent below the year's high close of 2,443.4 on July 16.

While most big institutional players were absent and there

THE DOLLAR'S ROLLER-COASTER



was little selling pressure, worries about how the dollar's decline this week will reverberate throughout world equity markets in the New Year put pressure on prices, dealers said.

In Tokyo, the US dollar ended the year with a 1.50-yen plunge to its 11th record low closing in 17 trading days against the Japanese currency yesterday, despite the Japanese central bank's massive efforts to check the decline.

The dollar closed at 122.00 yen after dropping at one point to 121.85 yen, its lowest in Tokyo since modern exchange rates were set in the late 1940s. There were predictions it would fall further when foreign currency trading resumes here on Jan 4.

The dollar's 1987 closing was down 38.10 yen, or 24 per cent, from its closing of 160.10 yen at the end of 1986.

Traders said the Bank of Japan began buying dollars as soon as the dollar dropped to 123.05 yen shortly after the start of trading, and bought an estimated \$800 million.

The bank does not officially

comment on its market intervention.

"We expect the dollar will go down further. After Jan 4, when the Tokyo Stock Exchange opens, there will be more selling pressure, which might bring the dollar down even below 120 yen or the 119-yen level," said Tatsuya Mizuno of the Bank of Tokyo.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange closed down Dec 29 through Jan 3 for the New Year holidays. The Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Stock index ended 1987 at 12,564, well below the 26,643 it reached early in the year but still above the 18,544 low of the October crash.

In New York, the credit market wound up a wrenching year that saw bond prices helplessly follow the dollar on its dizzying downward spiral and interest rates rose in tandem.

Bonds got a brief respite following the stock crash on Oct 19 when nervous investors fled the collapsing equities market for the relative safety of bonds and snapped up Treasury issues.

Bond traders also were

encouraged this past week by the Reagan administration's new financing plan to help Mexico repay some of its \$76 billion debt to commercial banks through the sale of special US Treasury bonds.

The US currency's steep slide made bonds and notes less attractive to foreign investors like the Japanese by eroding the value of dollar-denominated instruments. And by making imports more expensive, it fanned fears of inflation — a key enemy of the bond market because it eats away at the value of fixed-income investments.

"There is so much fear about the dollar," said Jay Goldinger, an investment broker for Cantor, Fitzgerald and Co. Inc. in Beverly Hills, California.

Bonds responded to the dollar's fall with a vengeance. Prices on the US Treasury's key 30-year bond tumbled, pushing the interest rate on the issue to 8.98 per cent yesterday from 7.36 per cent a year ago. The rate had leaped as high as 10.40 per cent before the stock market debacle.

Fed's choices could decide '88 US election

NEW YORK, Jan. 1, (AP): Straw polls and caucuses may get the biggest headlines, but the actions of the Federal Reserve — the US central bank — could be an even bigger factor in deciding who is elected president of the United States in 1988.

The reason: 1988 is the first presidential election year since before World War I in which the United States has been a debtor nation. That means the nation's central bank has to be more sensitive than ever to the wishes of foreign lenders.

If the Federal Reserve pushes up interest rates to prop up the dollar, it would please America's foreign creditors but could choke off borrowing at home and cause a recession.

In turn, a recession could spoil the Republicans' chances of holding on to the White House.

"The Republican Party, if

(Fed chairman Alan) Greenspan makes the wrong moves, is going to take a real bath next November," said William Greider, a Washington-based writer.

Greider has written a new 798-page book titled, provocatively, "Secrets of the temple: how the Federal Reserve runs the country."

Few believe the Fed would intentionally cause a recession in 1988 by clamping down too hard on money.

But some people — a mix of liberal economists and nervous Republican politicians — fear a recession could happen by mistake if the Fed tries too hard to protect the dollar with high interest rates.

The world looks different from the Fed's point of view, of course.

The Fed fears that if it allows

the dollar to decline too sharply, import prices will jump and trigger high inflation, the natural enemy of any central bank.

In the Fed's view, its credibility as an independent bulwark for low inflation and a sound dollar is on the line.

Some economists and politicians believe Greenspan indirectly contributed to the Oct 19 stock market crash by pushing through an unjustified increase in the discount rate in September.

Greider argues that Greenspan is already facing strong pressure to ease interest rates from the administration's two backers: Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III and Howard Baker, the White House Chief of Staff.

But Carol Stone, senior economist at Nomura Securities International Inc., believes the White House and the Federal

Reserve still see things pretty much the same way.

"If it turns out that the economy is genuinely weak, the Fed would probably do what is necessary (to stimulate it)," she said.

"Greenspan understands that conditions are tenuous and it's not at all appropriate for a domestic standpoint to raise interest rates at the present time," she said.

Greenspan does not want to be known as the Fed chairman who caused a recession, but neither does he want to be known as the one who let the dollar fall to 99 yen, said Cynthia Latta, senior financial economist of Data Resources Inc. in Lexington, Massachusetts.

Persuaded She said she hopes the Fed will not be "erroneously persuaded" by the dollar's most recent plunge to tighten monetary

policy.

But others question whether the Fed is already tightening too much and suggest it would be better to err on the side of an uptick in inflation.

"Once something like this begins to unravel, it's a lot bigger than government controls and safety nets. The historical lesson is: don't flirt with that possibility," Greider said.

Although the Fed was given high marks for flooding the financial system with money after the Oct 19 stock crash, economists are beginning to question whether the Fed has really been so generous.

Average total reserves in the banking system were actually down in early December from their pre-crash levels, noted Robert Chandross, chief economist of Lloyds Bank in the United States.

Oil industry cautiously optimistic about 1988

CARACAS, Jan. 1, (AP): Venezuela's petroleum industry showed cautious optimism yesterday about the 1988 oil market and projected it will earn slightly more oil income next year than it did in 1987.

Oil officials said they increased Venezuela's proven reserves estimates to 58 billion barrels, which would rank it fourth worldwide in reserves.

The officials said Venezuela earned \$9.4 billion in income from oil and petrochemicals exports in 1987. They estimated earnings of up to \$9.8 billion next year.

Capability "This is a mere estimate. No one has the capability in the period of so much uncertainty to say what will be the world oil price next year or what our price will be. But if those nations violating their (Opec) quotas stick to their quotas next year, these are feasible results," Energy Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti told a press conference.

"If they don't, there will be serious problems within Opec," he said.

The oil officials spoke to reporters following the annual meeting of Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA), the state oil holding company.

According to the officials, Venezuela exported an average

of 1,512,000 barrels per day of oil and oil products in 1987 at an average price of \$16.47 per barrel.

Excluding petrochemicals, income was \$9 billion.

Condensates added around 200,000 barrels a day to total exports, they said.

Around 440,000 barrels per day were sent to refineries abroad in which Venezuela holds stock, they said.

Plummet In 1986, when overproduction caused prices to plummet, PDVSA earned an average of \$13.90 per barrel on exports averaging 1,508,000 barrels per day.

Oil income reached \$7.2 billion and petrochemicals exports added another \$800 million.

"In 1988, we hope for a level of income of between \$9.6 to \$9.8 billion" based on estimated daily exports of 1,520,000 barrels costing \$16.70 each, Hernandez Grisanti said.

Venezuela's current Opec quota is 1,571,000 barrels of crude oil per day.

Energy consumption up

TOKYO, Jan. 1, (Opecna): Japan's consumption of fuel, power and other energy resources rose by 3.2 per cent during the first half of this year compared to a year earlier, it was reported at the weekend.

A report by the Japanese Institute of Energy Economics said the country's consumption of fuel between April and September increased by 3.8 per cent, compared to an earlier government estimate of 3.4 per cent.

Electricity demand, the report noted, rose by 4.9 per cent which was much higher than the 3.6 per cent predicted by the government.



Despite the dropping dollar rate, traders were in high spirits as they celebrated the end of 1987, the year of the crash, on the floor of the Paris Stock Exchange. Bidding continued despite flying steamers and confetti. (Reuters wirephoto)

Copper futures prices soar

CHICAGO, Jan. 1, (Reuters): Copper futures prices soared at the Comex in New York yesterday as tight supplies of the metal sparked buying ahead of the New Year.

January delivery copper jumped 7.95 cents to \$1.46 a pound on broad-based buying from both trading houses and investors.

"There's a tight supply situation in effect so traders are buying ahead of the New Year when prices will probably go up," said one analyst.

Coincided

The rise in the futures market coincided with the underlying cash market where companies that produce the metal increased

their asking prices.

Copper has produced an impressive rally this year as lower production and greater demand have combined to give the metal a lustrous outlook.

Gold futures closed higher in a shortened pre-holiday session as weakness in the value of the dollar lent early support.

February gold rose \$3.40 to \$488.90 an ounce.

Prices fell back from early highs in a round of profit-taking. Analysts said gold's lackluster response to pronounced dollar weakness was mainly due to investor reluctance to trade ahead of the holiday weekend.

Lower crude oil prices also pressured gold because they lessened inflation fears and diminish

the need to invest in precious metals.

Comex silver futures settled higher in reaction to the weak dollar, with March up 6.5 cents at \$6.77 an ounce. Silver followed gold higher, supported by currencies and year-end speculative short covering.

Quiet

At the New York Mercantile Exchange, energy futures ended a quiet pre-holiday session with mixed prices.

February crude oil closed 19 cents lower at \$16.70 a barrel. January heating oil closed 0.26 cents higher at \$1.44 a gallon, and January gasoline was down 0.03 cents at 43.67 cents a gallon.

Foreign Currency Selling Rates

Kuwait-India Int'l Exchange Co.
Tel 2422558-2422733
2422788-3917363

Indian rupees 21.270
Sri Lankan rupees 08.880
US dollars 270.45
Pound sterling 508.25
UAE dirhams 73.750
Deutsche marks 171.000
Japanese yen 02.220

Currency rates

FOLLOWING are international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait on Thursday.

	Buying	Selling
US dir	26909	27075
Stg	50521	50969
DM	17020	17180
S. fr	2107	21285
F. fr	05005	05056
It lira	0002304	0002325
J. Yen	0021930	0022339
B. dinar	71348	71817
UAE dir	07325	073740
S. riyal	07173	07222
Q. riyal	07390	07442

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US dollars	270.450
Sterling	508.200
Deutsche marks	171.350
Swiss francs	212.000
French francs	50.600
Japanese yen	222.230
Italian lira	231.850
Dutch gilder	152.200
Canadian dollar	208.600
Belgian franc	8.260
Spanish peseta	2.550
Austrian schilling	25.550
Cyprus pounds	613.300
Singapore dollar	137.450
Hong Kong dollar	35.850
Philippine peso	13.500
Lebanese pound	607.450
Australian dollar	196.000
Indian rupees	21.110
Pakistani rupees	15.600
Sri Lankan rupees	8.915
UAE dirham	73.675
Bahraini dinar	717.600
S. Yemeni dinar	788.250
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US dollars 270.450
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Jordanian Dinars 805.850
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The Islamic Fund Bid USD 13.250
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Offer USD 13.550

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995 kilo bar 4217.000

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FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait on Thursday:

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	3 1/16	3 13/16
3 months	4 1/8	4 3/4
6 months	5	5 1/2
1 year	5 3/8	5 13/16

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Europeans seek higher American interest rates

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1, (Reuters): Major Western European governments are putting pressure on the United States to raise interest rates if the value of the US dollar continues to fall, the Washington Post reported yesterday.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson led a group of European finance ministers last week in an unsuccessful bid to convince US Treasury Secretary James Baker to publicly pledge higher interest rates to support the dollar, the newspaper said.

Refused Citing European government sources, it said Baker refused to issue a statement on higher rates because of concern that such a move would lead to a recession ahead of the US presidential election next November.

The European leaders made their plea during an economic meeting last week involving the seven major industrial democracies.

Financial observers say the fact the meeting of the Group of Seven failed to produce an explicit US policy statement has helped destabilise the dollar around the world.

Central banks in Japan and Europe intervened on Wednesday to prop up the dollar but experts said there would be no rally from its current record lows without strong action by Washington.

Decisive "Decisive steps must now come from the United States," the newspaper quoted a West German source as saying.

"There is a confidence gap," the newspaper, in a story written from Bonn, West Germany, quoted a European government official as warning: "We feel we've done our share in adjusting interest rates. We now feel that the ball is in the Americans' court."

However, White House chief economist Beryl Sprinkel last week officially lowered the administration's 1988 forecast

for expansion of gross national product, or GNP, to 2.4 per cent from a prediction made in August of 3.5 per cent.

The economy grew during the first nine months of 1987 at an annual rate of 3.7 per cent.

Growth Besides stocks, other declining components of the leading indicators index in November were less growth in the money supply, smaller price rises for sensitive materials, higher jobless claims, a shorter average work week and fewer orders for new plants and equipment.

By contrast, manufacturers' orders for consumer goods rose and more building permits were issued.

In other economic news, the Commerce Department said single-family home sales were down in November by 1.2 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 664,000 units, after a revised

2.1 per cent rise in October.

The fall might have been larger except for an exceptionally strong 37 per cent increase in the northeast region during November to an annual sales rate of 170,000 homes. Sales fell in every other region including the Midwest, south and western states.

Claimed Nonetheless, industry analysts claimed the relatively small sales decline in November was encouraging if only because it was not larger so soon after the loss of consumer and corporate wealth from cheaper share prices.

"The stock market crash is not having a material negative impact, or at least any change is being largely offset by lower interest rates since October," said Lyle Gramley, chief economist for the Mortgage Bankers Association whose members finance home purchases.

KD deposits soft KUWAITI dinar interbank deposits held at soft levels on Thursday in a year-end market which dealers said ground to a virtual standstill as banks closed their books.

Overnight funds were offered at a nominal 1/2 per cent but few banks emerged as takers.

Period rates held around the year's lowest levels as high liquidity continued to weigh on the market. One-month rates were indicated at 3-3/4, 1/4 per cent, three-month at 4-1/2, four and six months at 5-1/2, five.

The Central Bank adjusted its dinar exchange rate firmer to 0.26973/07 from 0.27053/87, on Wednesday.

Decision The spot dinar was quoted by commercial banks at 0.27005/15. Meanwhile Saudi riyal interbank deposit rates were marked sharply higher on Thursday after the Kingdom decided to raise up to 30 billion riyals through

Index movements on the major markets

LONDON, Jan. 1, (Reuters): After 12 months of wild share price fluctuations, including the dramatic Wall Street plunge on Black Monday, October 19, key indices on the New York and London share markets are little changed from the start of the 1987. Among the three major markets, only Tokyo, the world's biggest stock exchange, is substantially ahead at year's end and even it fell six per cent in a nervous final week of trading before closing on Monday (December 28) for a week. The following table shows how the three markets started and finished the year in addition to their 1987 highs (all records) and 1987 lows and the October 19 close.

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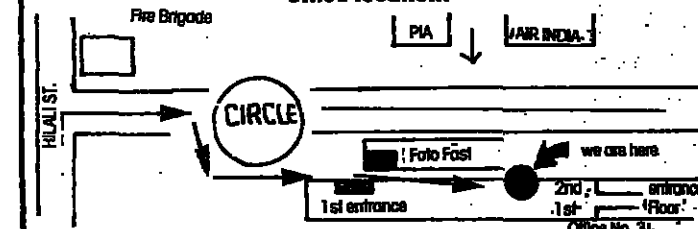
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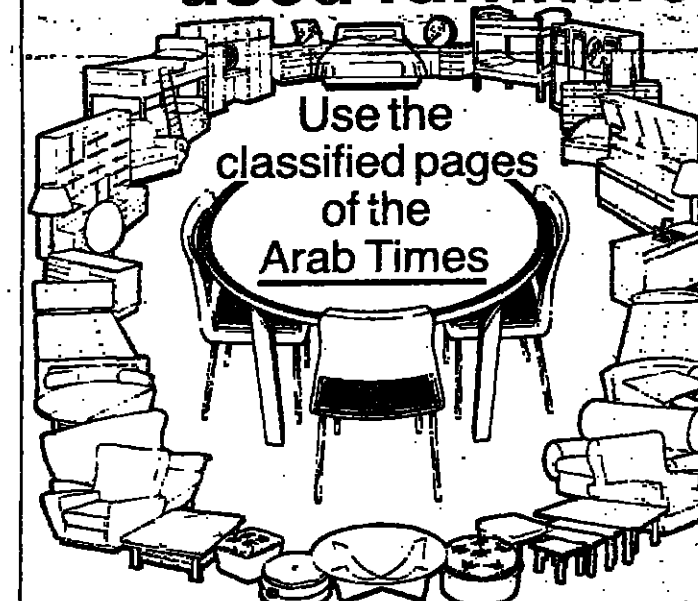
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SPORTS

SHASTRI REPLACES VENGSAKAR AS CAPTAIN

W. Indies-India Test ends in draw

CALCUTTA, Jan 1, (Reuters): The West Indies gained an unbeatable 1-0 lead in their four-match series against India yesterday when the third Test at Calcutta ended in a predictable draw.

The match petered out into an inclusive contest after West Indies reached 157 for two in their second innings on the fifth and final day. Earlier, India had reached 565 in reply to the West Indian first innings of 530 for five declared.

Alive

Only the aggressive batting of openers Desmond Haynes and Gordon Greenidge and inspired left arm spin bowling by Ravi Shastri kept interest alive for the 40,000 spectators at the stadium. But the match was not without its moments of drama, including incidents involving rival skippers Viv Richards and Dilip Vengsarkar.

Indian board secretary Ranbir Singh told reporters the board were awaiting a report from umpire Pilo Reporter on a row with Richards over two unsuccessful appeals against India's Mohammed Azharuddin on Monday.

Richards refused to be drawn on the incident when he said: "I do not want to say anything about that. We will say whatever we want in our report to the board."

Singh also said Vengsarkar would miss the next three one-



Shastri: to lead India.

day internationals against the West Indies because of the fractured left hand he suffered from a rising delivery bowled by Winston Davis on Wednesday.

Vengsarkar completed his 17th test century shortly before he was struck by Davis and will be temporarily replaced as captain by Shastri for the forthcoming one-day matches.

Shastri celebrated his elevation by taking two wickets in the West Indian second innings for 13 runs and ending a successful match with his highest score of the series—47.

Haynes hit five fours off 117 balls before being deceived by the flight of a Shastri delivery and gave a low return catch to the 26-year-old Glamorgan and India

all-rounder.

Greenidge fell to Shastri when he was caught by substitute Shanjeev Sharma at long leg for 69, which included eight fours. He made 141 in the first innings.

The pitch lived up to its reputation as a batting paradise until the last day of the match and led Shastri in desperation to allow his specialist batsmen opportunities to bowl.

The crowd had a special cheer for local hero Arun Lal, who had missed his maiden Test century by seven runs in the first innings. The match was called off after 10 of the 20 mandatory overs were bowled, leaving West Indies with a 1-0 lead in the series with one Test left.

Squad for the one-day international in Calcutta tomorrow: Ravi Shastri, K. Srikanth, A. Lal, M. Amarnath, M. Azharuddin, Kapil Dev, R. Kulkarni, Maninder Singh, A. Ayub, K. More, W.V. Raman, A. Sharma, S. Manjrekar, S. Sharma.

Squad for the one-day international in Rajkot and Ahmedabad on January 5 and 7: Ravi Shastri, K. Srikanth, A. Lal, M. Amarnath, M. Azharuddin, Kapil Dev, Ajay Sharma, Arshad Ayub, Sanjeev Sharma, Maninder Singh, W.V. Raman, S. Manjrekar, S. Vishwanath, R. Kulkarni.

Squad for fourth Test in Madras on January 11: D.B. Vengsarkar, A. Sharma, R.

Shastri, Kapil Dev, K. More, A. Ayub, N. Hirwani, Maninder Singh, C. Sharma, Sanjeev Sharma.

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings 530 for five declared

INDIA first innings (overnight score 521 for seven)

K. Srikanth c Dujon b Walsh 23
A. Lal b Walsh 93
M. Amarnath b Davis 43
D. Vengsarkar retired hurt 102
M. Azharuddin c Logie b Walsh 60
R. Shastri b Davis 47
K. Dev b Walsh 4
K. More c Richardson b Patterson 44
A. Ayub c Richardson b Patterson 57
C. Sharma b Walsh 27
M. Singh not out 1
Extras (b-13, lb-23, nb-28) 64
Total 565

Fall of wickets: 1-56, 2-152, 3-301, 4-305, 5-403, 6-410, 7-505, 8-553, 9-565.

Bowling: Patterson 22-2-0-107-1, C. Walsh 29-3-136-4, W. Davis 27-3-84-3, C. Burtis 59-13-123, V. Richards 24-6-39-1, C. Hooper 20-5-40-0.

WEST INDIES second innings

G. Greenidge c Shastri 69
D. Haynes c Shastri 47
R. Richardson not out 28
G. Logie not out 13
Extras (b-4, lb-2, nb-7) 13
Total (for two wickets) 157

Fall of wickets: 1-114, 2-129.

Bowling: Kapil Dev 10-2-19-0, Sharma 4-0-24-0, Maninder Singh 16-2-43-0, Ayub 14-5-34-0, Amarnath 4-0-11-4, Shastri 10-3-13-2, Srikanth 3-0-7-4, Lal 1-1-0-0.

Results: Match drawn.

First Test: New Delhi — West Indies won by five wickets.

Second Test: Bombay — match drawn.

Fourth Test: Madras — Jan 11-16.



Impersonated 'Hodor', the official mascot for the 1988 Games, waves a banner of greetings and South Korean flags on the eve of the new year. (Reuters wirephoto)

N. Korean anti-Games military action inconceivable: IOC chief

SEOUL, South Korea, Jan 1, (AP): The president of the International Olympic Committee said in an interview published yesterday it is "inconceivable" that North Korea would take any military action to disrupt next year's Seoul Olympics.

In the interview with the Dong-A Ilbo, a leading Seoul newspaper, Juan Antonio Samaranch also said he believes the Seoul Olympics will be a success, with the Soviet Union and other communist nations taking part.

Abide

"It is inconceivable that North Korea would take certain military actions to disrupt the Seoul Olympics. North Korea is a member of the Olympic family and I don't doubt their respect for the Olympic spirit," Samaranch said.

Samaranch said the IOC has offered "very important proposals and concessions", to which North Korea should respond "sooner or later".

Samaranch said North Korea would be free either to boycott or participate in the Seoul games but should abide by the Olympic spirit, as do other IOC member countries.

There has been widespread concern that North Korea might try to disrupt the Seoul Olympics after both the IOC and South Korea rejected its demands to be made a co-host of the 1988 Summer Games.

Aravindra da Silva's century in the one-day match was followed by a double century from Asanka Gurusinha in the two-day draw while the bowling has been considerable.

Meanwhile Australia are set to close Tim May ahead of fellow off-spinner Peter Taylor for the one place in doubt in their team.

Border said: "Taylor is a better batsman and slightly better fieldman, but May is a slightly more proficient spinner."

"May played in the World Cup final and he deserves the first opportunity. I lean slightly towards him."

Australia (from) — David Boon, Geoff Marsh, Dean Jones, Allan Border (captain), Mike Veletta, Steve Waugh, Greg Dyer, Tony Dodemaide, Tim May, Craig McDermott, Mike Whitney, Peter Taylor.

Sri Lanka (from) — Roshan Mahanama, Asanka Gurusinha, Aravindra da Silva, Arjuna Ranatunga, Ranjan Madugalle (captain), Hashan Tillekeratne, Ravi Ratnayake, Guy de Alwis, Asoka de Silva, Graeme Labrooy, Kaushik Amalean, Sanath Kaluperuma.

Hohns and Tazelaar rescue Queensland

BRISBANE, Australia, Jan 1, (Reuters): A 114-run eighth wicket partnership rescued Queensland after their top order batsmen fell cheaply on the first day of their Sheffield Shield match against New Wales today.

Trevor Hohns with 55 and Dirk Tazelaar, 56, staged the revival and although Dave Gilbert took the last three wickets in the space of seven balls, Queensland reached a respectable 278 before being all out to the last ball of the day.

In Adelaide: South Australia 158 (C. Matthews 4-41) v Western Australia 26 for no wicket.

Australia meet Sri Lanka in opener

SYDNEY, Jan 1, (Reuters): Australia's newly acquired crown as the kings of one-day cricket champions will be up for grabs for the first time during the World Series Cup, beginning tomorrow. Australia play their first match tomorrow against Sri Lanka.

Allan Border's revitalised side are strong favourites to win the 15-match series against New Zealand, narrowly defeated 1-0 in the three-Test series earlier this week, and Sri Lanka following their surprise victory in the recent World Cup.

Middle

But the absence of fast bowler Bruce Reid, a certain fragility in Australia's middle order and the luck of the toss make it far from certain Border will hold the cup aloft after the final game on Australia Day, January 26.

The World Cup in India and Pakistan proved the side batting first hold an enormous advantage — the only match Australia lost in that competition was when they batted second.

Apart from the good fortune of consistently winning the toss, Border was also blessed with a

pair of opening bowlers who bowled tightly when faced with a side chasing runs.

Craig McDermott, who grabbed a record-equaling 18 wickets in the World Cup, maintained his good form during the recent Test series but his partner Bruce Reid only played one full game after nicking his back early in the second Test.

Reid's accuracy and height make him extremely hard to get away and New Zealand's batsmen visibly grew in confidence once he was sidelined.

Reid's replacement, left-hander Mike Whitney, bowls with pace but little subtlety and Tony Dodemaide, who concentrates on the stumps, might well be given the new ball after his six-wicket performance in his Test debut.

The series win over New Zealand, Border's first as captain, revealed Australia have yet to find a solid batting line-up. Opener David Boon and Border were the only players among the top five guaranteed to perform while number three Dean Jones and Mike Veletta have yet to convince the doubters.

Much of Jones' problems stemmed from Richard Hadlee who took umbrage at the Victorian's statement that as far as Jones was concerned, the 36-year-old was just another bowler.

Hadlee proved repeatedly he was nothing short of extraordinary. His penetration coupled with the numbing accuracy of Ewen Chafeild will frustrate batsmen on a run chase.

New Zealand's batting will as ever depend on Martin Crowe although number three Andrew Jones and to a lesser extent Dipak Patel developed encouragingly during the series.

Jeff Crowe, after a miserable run, can only get better and his 25 in the third Test contained promising signs of a return to form.

Injuries

Sri Lanka will be hoping four key players, including captain Ranjan Madugalle, shake off injuries before the first match.

A fully-fit Sri Lankan side will be quite a handful for their performance against Western Australia this week are anything to go by.

Ranatunga leads Sri Lanka to win

PERTH, Jan 1, (Reuters): Sri Lankan vice-captain Arjuna Ranatunga warmed up in fine style for the World Series Cup with a sparkling unbeaten century against a West Australian country team yesterday.

The little left-hander hammered 106 off only 83 deliveries in 125 minutes.

His brilliant batting laid the foundation for Sri Lanka's total of 245 for five off 45 overs.

The country side were never in the race and were all out for 102 off 42.2 overs, giving Sri Lanka a runaway victory by 143 runs.

Off-spinner Sanath Kaluperuma mopped up the country tail to finish with four for 15 off 6.2 overs.

Scoreboard	
SRI LANKA	
R. Mahanama c Arnold b Hams	9
A. Gurusinha c Arnold b Hams	23
P. A. de Silva c Shine b Francis	28
A. Ranatunga not out	106
B. Kapurunga not out	51
B. Ratnayake run out	12
Extras (b-2, lb-10, w-3, nb-1)	16
Total (five wickets)	245
(45 overs)	
Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-59, 3-63, 4-215, 5-245.	
Bowling: Clark 9-1-37-1 (w-2, nb-1), Hams 9-0-47-1 (w-1), Obert 9-0-59-1, Francis 9-0-33-1, Gilbert 9-0-57-0.	
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY XI	
G. Lang st Kapurunga b Jeganathan	31
D. Burns c P. A. de Silva	6
B. Ratnayake	6
B. Arnold c Ratnayake	16
c Jeganathan	

P. Shine b Jeganathan	4
T. Waldron c Gurusinha	13
b Kapurunga	
R. Miller b A. de Silva	1
W. Hams c A. de Silva	1
b Kapurunga	11
D. Francis c Jeganathan	1
b Kapurunga	
J. Gilbert c Ratnayake	1
b Kapurunga	
M. Obert st Kapurunga b A. de Silva	1
B. Clark not out	6
Extras (lb-5, w-3)	8
Total (all out)	102 (42.2 overs)
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-46, 3-54, 4-71, 5-76, 6-78, 7-91, 8-91, 9-94.	
Bowling: Ratnayake 6-0-21-1 (w-2), Labrooy 6-1-13-0, Jeganathan 9-0-20-3, Ratnayake 5-3-5-0, De Silva 5-2-19-2, Kaluperuma 6-0-15-4 (w-1), Mahanama 1-0-4-0.	
Sri Lanka won by 143 runs. Man of the match: A. Ranatunga.	

Crowe believes he has time on his side

SYDNEY, Jan 1, (Reuters): New Zealand master batsman Martin Crowe believes he is nowhere near West Indian Viv Richards' equal.

But he admits his opinion about who is the world's best might well have changed in a couple of years.

"There are five players — Richards, Gordon Greenidge, Sunil Gavaskar, Allan Border and Javed Miandad — who have done great things for up to 10 years. They are the great players of the world today," he said.

Couple

"I'm only 25. I've got so many years to prove my worth. Just because I've had a couple of good years it doesn't mean I'm the best. It doesn't work that way," he said.

"I'm not close ... it might be about two years away," Crowe told reporters after his innings of 79 against Australia in the third and final Test on Tuesday set up a victory chance.

Cold statistics indicate Crowe's modesty does him less than full credit.

During his second innings knock at the Melbourne Cricket Ground Crowe became only the seventh cricketer, and the first for 40 years, to complete 4,000 in a calendar year.

The accomplishment put him alongside the great Australian, Sir Donald Bradman, as the only



Crowe: has many years to prove his worth

non-Englishman to have achieved the feat.

Crowe, in his 60th innings of 1987, pushed his aggregate of runs to 4,045 at an average of 79.31 — including 17 centuries.

The year includes 1,627 runs for Somerset to top the English county averages with an average of 67.79, a record 1,676 in the

New Zealand domestic season and 715 on the current tour to Australia.

But Crowe dearly wanted a double century on this tour of Australia, a feat he has not yet achieved. His highest Test score to date is 188 against Australia in Brisbane in 1985.

"I still haven't got the innings I

wanted to get. It has been a great year overall but I still have not found that innings. It was supposed to be today," Crowe said on Tuesday after he got out to a disappointing shot.

"When I go out to the centre I use a model — Greg Chappell with his 131 at Lord's and 176 at Christchurch in 1982."

"And here at the MCG I've put through my mind the mastery of Viv Richards with his 208 in the Boxing Day Test of 1984."

"He got the 200 I've always wanted for New Zealand because he was more hungry than I," said Crowe who was so disappointed he found it difficult to talk for several hours.

The right-hander, brother of New Zealand captain Jeff Crowe, sets himself short and long-term goals to keep him alert during the hard grind of Test, county and provincial cricket.

This attention to milestones has helped make him the most prolific century-maker for New Zealand, his 137 in the second Test putting him one ahead of Bev Congdon and Glenn Turner with eight 100s.

Furthermore, Crowe, who passed 2,500 Test runs in the Melbourne Test, is not far from the New Zealand record, held by Congdon, of 3,448.

Crowe's determination was fuelled by a poor start to his Test career in the toughest of circum-

Seattle beat Boston

NEW YORK, Jan 1, (AP): After two years of watching the Boston Celtics, most of the time from the bench, Sam Vincent had an idea of how to beat them.

"It was great to beat Boston for a million reasons," Vincent said after the Seattle SuperSonics defeated the Celtics 111-105 Wednesday night. They were definitely vulnerable to the ball being pushed up. They are a little tired because they have a lot of guys playing a lot of minutes."

Vincent, the Celtics' first-round draft choice in 1985, played his first game against them since being traded to Seattle at the beginning of the season for a second-round draft pick.

He scored only four points in 25 minutes, but had nine assists and did a good job of keeping his teammates running.

Tom Chambers had 31 points and Dale Ellis 26 as the Sonics beat Boston in Seattle for the first time since 1982.

In other NBA games on Wednesday it was Detroit 105, Indiana 95; Portland 117, Washington 112; Atlanta 117, Cleveland 110; Houston 102, Milwaukee 93; San Antonio 140, Sacramento 108; Utah 104, Golden State 103; and Phoenix 121, Los Angeles Clippers 102. There were no games yesterday.

Rockets 102, Bucks 93

Houston beat Milwaukee for the first time in seven tries as Akem Olatunji scored 28 points and Joe Barry Carroll had seven off his 17 in the final 1:28.

The Bucks, trailing by five after three quarters, rallied to lead 86-85 with 4:33 to go as Terry Cummings scored six of his 17 points in a 9-2 run.

Seattle's victory was a significant blow to the Celtics, who had been looking for a second-round draft pick.

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Bond pulls out of 1988 America's Cup

PERTH, Jan 1, (Reuters): Alan Bond, who won the America's Cup for Australia in 1983, will not challenge for yachting's premier prize in 1988.

Bond's America's Cup syndicate said yesterday work on its planned 90-foot-waterline super-maxi, Waltzing Matilda, would cease immediately.

John Longley, general manager of the Bond syndicate, said the decision not to proceed was disappointing, particularly given Bond's involvement in previous challenges.

Decision

Bond, who has contested the last five Cups, said on December 21 he would give the San Diego Yacht Club 10 days to review its decision to exclude multiple challengers for the 1988 Cup or he would suspend construction of his boat.

San Diego said on Monday a recent court ruling excluded all challengers but New Zealand. Dennis Conner represented the San Diego club when he won back the Cup in February.

A challenge by New Zealand businessman Michael Pay, upheld by a New York judge, succeeded in having an America's Cup series sailed next year in 90-foot-waterline boats, instead of the 12-metre class yachts that have been used since 1958.

Timman takes 3rd place in chess rankings

LUCERNE, Switzerland, Jan 1, (AP): Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman has moved up to third place in the new list published yesterday of the world's best chess players, trailing world champion Garry Kasparov and challenger Anatoly Karpov.

Britain's Nigel Short, tied for tenth half a year ago, also advanced in the ratings compiled twice annually by Fide, the Lucerne-based International Chess Federation, and now shares sixth place. Countryman Jonathan Speelman moved into a three-way tie for ninth place.

Widened

In the women's rankings, world champion Maya Chiburdanidze widened her points lead over fellow Soviet Nona Gaprindashvili from 55 to 75 points. Sweden's Pia Cramling, the lone non-East European on the list, retained her fifth place.

Fide said the points for Kasparov and Karpov do not yet reflect the outcome of the world championship narrowly won by the defending title holder.

Vera triumphs in Silvestre race

SAO PAULO, Brazil, Jan 1, (Reuters): Rolanda Vera of Ecuador won the 63rd Silvestre round-the-houses race through the streets of Sao Paulo for the second year in a row yesterday.

Marta Tenorio of Ecuador won the women's race. Behind Vera came Cerron Pizarro of Mexico and Joao de Souza of Brazil.

Angelica de Almeida of Brazil and Maria Diaz of Mexico were second and third in the women's section.

Maninder Singh

BLACKPOOL, England, Jan 1, (Reuters): Indian Test cricketer Maninder Singh, regarded as one of the world's best left-arm spinners, has agreed to join English Northern League club Blackpool as a professional next season.

Maninder, currently playing for India in the Test series against the visiting West Indies, has been given a 26-week contract.

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IATA RECOGNITION OF SKYLINE INSTITUTE

International Air Transport Association and International Federation of Freight Forwarders Association have jointly appreciated the efforts made by SKYLINE INSTITUTE of Boodai Aviation and recognised them as "IATA/IATA AUTHORISED TRAINING CENTRE". The joint self study programme offers world-wide recognition and co-ordinated by Kuwait Airways in Kuwait. IATA and UFTAA — Universal Federation of Travel Agents Association have already recognised this institute as "IATA/UFTAA AUTHORISED TRAINING CENTRE" and 90 students have been enrolled in the last two years. The International Diploma Examinations are conducted world-wide in more than 150 countries twice a year in April and October. This recognition of SKYLINE INSTITUTE from the three world bodies have been recommended by Kuwait Airways to help students prepare themselves in classroom training offered by Skyline Institute to obtain a Diploma. More information and assistance can be obtained from Skyline Institute through phone No: 2412308.

SPORTS

Qatar hold Kuwait to draw

QATAR'S national soccer team held Kuwait to a goalless draw in a qualifying match for the 1988 at Kuwait's Sabah Al Salem stadium yesterday.

The earlier match between the two teams in Qatar had produced a similar result. Kuwait, with two draws and two victories, remain on top of their qualifying group. Qatar is at the bottom of the table with three points.

Before the start of the match, the Kuwaiti and Qatari players staged a march past carrying Palestinian flags to the cheers of a vast crowd. The proceeds of the match are being donated by the Kuwait Football Association to a fund which supports the current popular uprising by the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, which has been occupied by Israel.

Fought

In the second match of the same group, Saudi Arabia fought back after being one goal down to hold Iraq to a 1-1 draw. This match was held in Oman.

Iraq now has four points after four matches and are second in the standings. Saudi Arabia have three points but lie in third position on better goal average.

Next week's matches will be crucial to all the teams. In Friday's games, Kuwait will face Saudi Arabia in Riyadh while Qatar and Iraq will meet in Oman. After this game, Kuwait will play another game against Iraq. In the home tie, played last month, Kuwait beat Iraq.

Rangers sign Walters from Aston Villa

GLASGOW, Jan 1. (Reuters): Scottish Premier Division champions Glasgow Rangers signed winger Mark Walters from English Second Division soccer club Aston Villa for £500,000 (\$935,000) yesterday.

The signing of Walters, 26, a former England under-21 international, took player-manager Graeme Souness' spending past £5 million (\$9.3 million) since he took over at Rangers in May 1986.

Late

Walters agreed to join Rangers despite a counter-offer from English champions Everton. He is set to make his debut against city rivals Celtic tomorrow.

Walters' signing came too late for him to be eligible for Rangers' European Cup quarterfinal against Steaua Bucharest in March, but he would be eligible for the semifinals if Rangers go through.

He follows several other Englishmen in crossing the border to join Rangers. Souness having already 'imported' Terry Butcher, Chris Woods, Graham Roberts, Trevor Francis and Ray Wilkins.

Thomas attempts to regain title

GENOA, Italy, Jan 1. (AP): American Duane Thomas will try to regain the World Boxing Council (WBC) junior middleweight (super-welterweight) crown from Italian Gianfranco Rosi in a late-night title fight Monday.

Another American, Don Curry, will fight Mexican-born Lupe Aquino on the same night to possibly regain credibility and a world chance following two bitter upsets.

Thomas, 26, who says he started a boxing career to escape an assembling-line job in a Detroit auto factory, said he learned from July's defeat by Aquino the second of his career — which cost him the loss of the WBC title.

"I thought of being unbeatable after defeating Mugabi and I paid for this over-confidence against Aquino. I am aware of my chances, but also of difficulties in the coming fight with Rosi. This has helped my concentration and my preparation," Thomas said.

Sumo wrestler

TOKYO, Jan 1. (Reuters): Futahaguro, a member of the highest rank of Sumo wrestlers, was expelled from Japan's national sport yesterday after injuring his stablemate's wife in a quarrel over discipline. The Japan Sumo Association said.

Nykaenen wins

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, West Germany, Jan 1. (AP): World Cup leader Matti Nykaenen soared more than 100 metres in both his jumps to win today second round of the four-hill ski jumping tour. The Olympic champion had jumps of 103.5 and 101.5 metres, scoring 212.4 points.

NEWCASTLE PUT A SPOKE IN FOREST'S WHEEL

Four-goal Liverpool go 13 points clear



Aldridge scored his 19th goal of season

LONDON, Jan 1. (Reuters): Liverpool began the New Year today as they had finished the old by crushing Coventry 4-0 to move 13 points clear of their nearest challengers at the top of the English First Division.

Inspired by England striker Peter Beardsley, who scored twice, they took full advantage of rivals Nottingham Forest's 2-0 home defeat by Newcastle to stroll to a luxuriously easy victory.

John Aldridge and Ray Houghton added Liverpool's other goals, taking the tally to 55 in a club record start of 22 unbeaten matches which have produced 56 points. For Aldridge, it was his 19th goal of the season.

To many observers, the championship already appears destined for Anfield with only a small cluster of clubs scrapping for the runners-up position and the remainder involved in a lengthy struggle to avoid relegation.

Forest, despite their unexpected defeat, remained second with 43 points, two points ahead of Arsenal, who drew 1-1 at struggling Portsmouth.

Manchester United, held 0-0 at home by relegation-battered Charlton, stayed fourth. Queen's Park Rangers, 3-0 winners

against Southampton, moved back to fifth and Everton, beaten 1-0 at Sheffield Wednesday, slipped back to sixth.

Brazilian international Mirandinha scored a brilliant solo goal four minutes from time to seal Newcastle's win at Nottingham after England under-21 international Paul Gascoigne had opened the scoring in the 28th minute.

The defeat ended Forest's run of four wins. It was also the first time in 14 League outings that Brian Clough's side had failed to score.

Arsenal struggled for survival at Portsmouth and trailed to an early Terry Connor goal before Alan Smith levelled. Arsenal goalkeeper John Lukic saved a late penalty by Kevin Dillon to preserve their point.

Manchester United forced 16 corners to no avail against Charlton and clearly could have used the cutting edge QPR showed against Southampton with goals from Gary Bannister, Mark Falco and Wayne Fereday.

Mark Proctor scored Sheffield Wednesday's winner against Everton to seal their first win in the fixture in 22 years.

Tottenham, with their mid-week signing from QPR Terry Fenwick making his debut in

central defence, managed their second successive win by beating bottom club Watford 2-1.

Clive Allen and Paul Moran scored for Terry Venables' team with defender Mark Morris replying for troubled Watford, the club put up for sale by their rock star chairman Elton John.

Luton continued their improvement with a 3-0 win over Chelsea — who have not won in nine matches — thanks to goals from the Stein brothers, Mark and Brian, and a fine header from Mick Harford.

Norwich celebrated the appointment of manager Dave Stringer by coming from behind to trash West Ham 4-1. Tony Cottee put the Londoners ahead, but goals from Dale Gordon, Kevin Drinkell, Mark Bowen and Robert Rosario emphatically turned the tables.

Wimbledon, creeping towards the top, won their third successive match when they beat Derby, who are falling just as fast in the opposite direction, 2-1.

Results

English Division	Goals
Liverpool	4
Luton	3
Manchester U	0
Norwich	4
Notts Forest	0
Portsmouth	1
QPR	3
Southampton	0

Sheffield Wed	1	Everton	0
Tottenham	2	Watford	1
Wimbledon	2	Derby	1

English Division Two

Aston Villa	3	Hull	0
Blackburn	4	Sheffield U	0
Bournemouth	4	Birmingham	1
Crystal P	3	Barnsley	2
Leeds	2	Bradford	0
Millwall	1	Leicester	0
Plymouth	1	Middlesbrough	1
Reading	3	Reading	1
Shrewsbury	3	Huddersfield	2
Stoke	1	Walsall	0
Swindon	2	West Brom	0

English Division Three

Aldershot	2	Bristol R	0
Blackpool	5	Bury	1
Bristol City	2	Brentford	1
Chesham	3	Mansfield	1
Fulham	1	Brighton	1
Grimsby	0	Notus C	0
Northampton	2	Walsall	0
Rotherham	1	Port Vale	0
Southend	1	Gillingham	0
Sunderland	3	Doncaster	1
Wigan	2	Preston	0
York	2	Chesham	0

English Division Four

Bolton	1	Scarborough	1
Cambridge	1	Peterborough	3
Carlisle	3	Barnley	4
Colchester	3	Scunthorpe	3
Durham	1	Hartlepool	1
Leyton O	0	Torquay	2
Newport	1	Exeter	0
Rochdale	0	Halifax	0
Swansea	0	Cardiff	0
Tranmere	4	Stockport	0
Wolves	2	Hertford	0
Wrexham	2	Crew	1

Scottish Premier Division

Dundee	2	Dunfermline	0
Motherwell	0	Falkirk	0
(Both brought forward from Saturday)			

Scottish Division One

Clyde	1	Partick	2
Forfar	1	Meadowbank	2
(Both brought forward from Saturday)			

Shriver routs Zrubakova and Porwik

BRISBANE, Australia, Jan 1. (AP): Top seed Pam Shriver of the United States scored a pair of quickfire straight-set victories today to power into the semifinals of the \$150,000 Ariadne Classic women's tennis championships.

Shriver, ranked fourth in the world, trounced unseeded Czech Radka Zrubakova 6-3, 6-2 in a third-round match held over from yesterday because of bad weather.

Shriver then romped past West German Claudia Porwik 6-2, 6-2 in a quarterfinal match an hour later at the tournament at Brisbane's Milton courts.

Shriver was too strong and too consistent for both her opponents, neither of whom plays regularly on grass.

In the semifinals, Shriver will face third-seeded Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany in the 56-draw Virginia Slims series event. The Ariadne Classic is a warmup to the \$1.9 million Australian Open.

Feature

Kohde-Kilsch had to struggle before defeating unseeded Dutch player Manon Bollegraf 5-7, 6-2, 5-7.

The other semifinal match will feature Patty Fendick of the United States and Czech Jana Novotna.

Fendick downed Canadian Jill Hetherington 6-3, 6-1 this morning and then ousted French player Pascal Paradis 3-6, 6-1, 6-3.

Novotna upset fourth-seeded West German Sylvia Hanika 7-6 (7-1), 6-1 in a powerful all-court game.

Shriver, 25, winner of the tournament in 1984, said she was delighted by her current form.

Shriver said she had concentrated on winning her matches as quickly as possible.

Louisiana beat South Carolina

JACKSONVILLE, Florida, Jan 1. (AP): Tom Hodson threw three touchdowns passes to Wendell Davis, and David Brown-dyke added three field goals as seventh-ranked Louisiana State beat South Carolina 30-13 yesterday in the 43rd annual Gator Bowl.

Davis, who is LSU's all-time leading receiver, scored on pass plays covering 39, 12 and 26 yards while Brown-dyke booted field goals of 27, 18 and 23 yards.

Hodson's first two scoring passes to Davis came in the first five minutes of the game as the Tigers, who finished 10-1-1, jumped to a 14-0 lead.

Louisiana State opened a 27-6 lead before ninth-ranked South Carolina, 8-4, scored its only touchdown on a 10-yard run by Harold Green at the start of the fourth quarter.

Real seek 'most satisfying victory'

RUNAWAY Spanish First Division leaders Real Madrid will be seeking their most satisfying victory of the season when they meet their oldest and greatest rivals Barcelona today.

With most of the major European Leagues enjoying a lengthy winter break, Barcelona's visit to the Spanish champions is the most attractive of the first weekend of continental soccer action in the New Year.

Capacity Although the Catalans have been blighted by inconsistency and internal strife this season and are currently struggling in 11th position, they remain Madrid's most passionately disliked opponents and are sure to attract a capacity crowd to the Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

In recent season, Barcelona have enjoyed an exceptional run of success against Madrid — last season, under the management of now departed Terry Venables,

they were unbeaten in four matches — but that record looks likely to end when the teams return to action after the two-week Christmas break.

In their last two outings in 1987, Barcelona went down 4-2 against Real Valladolid and 4-1 against Real Sociedad.

Though coach Luis Aragones welcomes back defenders Jose Morata and Julio Alberto from injury, he is unlikely to be able to repeat Atletico Madrid coach Cesar Luis Menotti's rare feat of a victory in Chamartin.

Real Madrid, however, have defensive problems and will be missing four experienced players — Miguel Tendillo and Manuel Sanchis, both serving one-match suspensions, and Jesus Solana and Ricard Gallego, injured.

Barcelona, who will also be without midfielder Ramon Caldera, will be given special security protection, including police escorts, throughout their stay in

Madrid.

Second-placed Real Sociedad, beaten only once in 11 outings, meet sixth-placed Cadiz at home while third-placed Atletico Madrid, travel to face Espanol in Barcelona.

Algerian international striker Rabah Madjer is expected to make his debut for Valencia against Athletic Bilbao. Madjer is on loan to Valencia for six months from Porto, the newly-crowned World Club champions.

Madjer's former team-mates in Portugal face a difficult opening to 1988 with a visit to Rio Ave, who are unbeaten at home. Something must give if unbeaten Porto are to maintain their four-point lead at the top.

Benfica, in second place, face a Lisbon derby clash with Belenenses.

In Italy, the top match will be Napoli's visit to fourth-placed AC Milan on Sunday. The defen-

Imran sticks to retirement decision

KARACHI, Jan 1. (Reuters): Pakistan's former captain Imran Khan said today his decision to retire from international cricket was still unchanged despite a temptation to make a comeback.

The Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) said earlier this week it had asked the all-rounder to come out of retirement and lead the team on the forthcoming tour of the West Indies.

Desire

"I am deeply honoured and privileged to hear about the opinion of all my well-wishers who desire that I lead the team to the West Indies," Imran said.

"On my part have been tempted to accept the challenge, particularly as this tour had not been announced when I took the decision to retire."

But he added: "My decision to retire was made after a great deal



Imran: being asked to come back of thought and remains unchanged.

Imran, 35, retired after the recent World Cup, ignoring all previous appeals from cricket officials and fans to continue playing for Pakistan.

But despite what he calls his well-considered decision to remain in retirement, officials are hopeful Imran will eventually change his mind and lead Pakistan on the eight-week tour beginning on March 5.

The BCCP's call to Imran to change his mind followed a statement by his successor Javed Miandad that he wanted to quit the captaincy to concentrate on his batting.

Announced

Imran is due to leave for Bombay tomorrow on a private visit for a few days. When he returns he is likely to see BCCP officials before they finally announce the team.

"After Miandad's unwillingness to captain the team on the tour we need a man like Imran to mould the side," BCCP selection committee chairman Haseeb Ahsan said yesterday.

Over 600 Paris-Dakar competitors head for Sahara desert

PARIS, Jan 1. (Reuters): More than 600 cars, trucks and motorcycles set off today at the start of the 10th Paris-Dakar Rally which promises to be the toughest yet.

Competitors began moving off before dawn in front of the chateau de Versailles outside Paris to cheers from thousands of beary-eyed spectators who extended New Year celebrations to watch the start of the 13,000 km race.

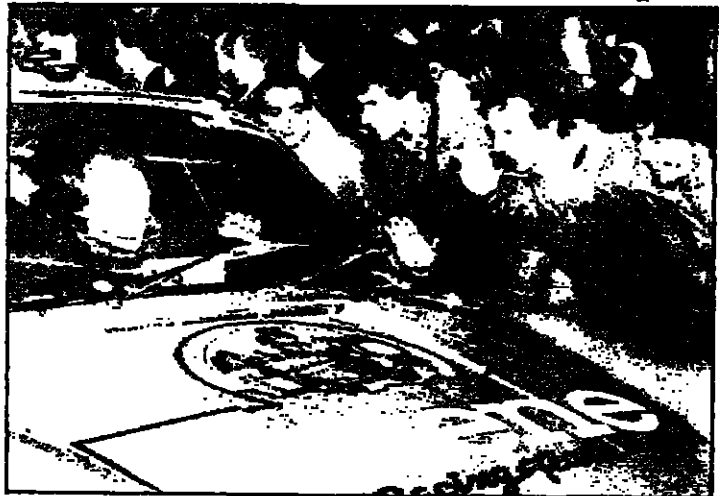
Strewn

The colourful convoy of desert-equipped vehicles headed for the centre of Paris and drove down the Champs Elysees, still strewn with champagne bottles and streamers left by overnight revelers.

The 602 vehicles will embark on four ships at the French Mediterranean port of Sete tonight to sail to Algiers for the 20-day trek through the Sahara desert to the Senegalese capital Dakar of Africa's Atlantic coast.

The Peugeot team, supported by a vast back-up organisation, are again hot favourites, provoking charges the French constructor is violating the rally's free-wheeling spirit of adventure.

"With seven trucks and 62 mechanics, Peugeot are fielding a real army," said Belgian For-



Laffite at the wheel of his car before the start of rally. (Reuters wirephoto)

mula One driver Jacky Ickx, who is racing in a Lada Poch. "Is this really the spirit of the Paris-Dakar?"

Last year's winner, Ari Vatanen of Finland, has teamed up with Swede Bruno Berglund in a Peugeot 405. World rally champion Juha Kankkunen of Finland is in a Peugeot 205, while Frenchman Henri Pescarolo four times winner of the Le Mans 24-hour race, is in another 405.

Challenging the Peugeots will be Ickx and fellow former Formula One driver Jacques Laffite in a Porsche. Frenchman Patrick Tambay heads the Range Rover team.

Japanese constructors made a good start with a four-wheel drive Mitsubishi Pajero driven by Frenchman Pierre Lartigue winning the car and truck prologue, raced round a muddy circuit on Wednesday.

Honda are looking for a hat-trick in the motor bike section,



Vatanen (right) and Kankkunen before the start of the rally. (Reuters wirephoto)

having filled first and second places for the past two years. Last year's winner, Cyril Neveu of France, is among the 1988 competitors.

The 8,000 kms of special stages are particularly fearsome, taking drivers through sand dunes and trackless wilderness in the blistering heat of the Sahara.



Mandlikova stands by an Australian flag after the citizenship ceremony. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mandlikova becomes Australian citizen

BRISBANE, Australia, Jan 1. (AP): Czech-born Hana Mandlikova, the world's fifth-ranked woman tennis player, today became an Australian citizen and said she hoped to represent her new country at the Seoul Olympics.

Mandlikova, 25, who now lives in Sydney with her Czech-born Australian restaurateur husband Jan Sedlak, told reporters in Brisbane that her 10-year career representing Czechoslovakia was over.

"I love Australia. I married an Australian and I want to win a gold medal for Australia," she said.

Sporting a "Down Under Australia" shirt, Mandlikova said the citizenship ceremony had been more nerve-racking for her than a major match.

"I didn't sleep at all last (Thursday) night," she said.

"I've played Grand Slam finals before, but this (is something) I've never done, and it was so important to me," she said.

Mandlikova faces a struggle to be eligible to represent her new country in South Korea at the Olympics.

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Tennis Australia president Brian Tobin said the loss of McEnroe would not affect the

Navratilova and Evert face fines for violating rules

SYDNEY, Jan 1. (UPI): Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert, who helped frame the rules of women's professional tennis, will each be fined \$20,000 if they play in an exhibition match next week on Australia's Gold Coast.

Women's International Tennis Association (WITA) tour director Pam Whytcross today said the two champions would be fined for breaching rule banning players from competing in an exhibition during a Wita-supported event on the same continent.

Evert is the president of the Wita. Navratilova a member of the board. Both are scheduled to play in an exhibition at the opening of the multi-million dollar tourist resort at Sanctuary Cove on the Gold Coast in south Queensland.

However, the exhibition will be held at the same time as the New South Wales Championship ships at White City, Sydney.

The Sanctuary Cove exhibition was not announced until last week, long after the NSW field was finalised.

Evernden overcomes Bates

WELLINGTON, Jan 1. (Reuters): Local tennis hero Kelly Evernden overcame an injury sustained early in the second set to beat Britain's Jeremy Bates in the quarterfinals of the New Zealand Open tennis championship today.

Second seeded Evernden, the defending champion, won 6-3, 1-6, 6-1 despite a painful right hand which hampered him midway through the match.

"I was serving in the fourth game on the second set when something snapped in my elbow and from then on I couldn't hit the ball hard because it hurt so much," Evernden said after physiotherapy.

"It disappeared half way through the third set. ... I don't know exactly what it is but I sure don't want it back again," added Evernden, who said the injury would not prevent him meeting sixth seeded Indian Ramesh Krishnan tomorrow.

Krishnan was taken three sets by Dutchman Meeno Oosting, ranked 152nd in the world, before winning 6-2, 6-6, 4-6.